

**NO DEJES QUE NADA TE ALEJE  
DE LO QUE ERES Y SUEÑAS!**

**Support Program for  
Ex-Combatant Children,  
Colombia**



ACN+ UN



Programa de Apoyo a los  
Niños Excombatientes

*Eleventh  
Quarter Report  
October - December 2003*

**El reclutamiento forzado es un delito.**



## ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
I. Executive Summary	3
II. Context	5
III. Summary Program Status	12
IV. Program Profile and Statistics on Assistance	19
V. Program Status by Component	27
1. Prevention	27
2. Education	31
3. IOM – ICBF Program Strengthening	36
4. Family Reintegration	44
5. Income Generation and Job Placement Opportunities	46
6. Contingency Plan	51
7. Referral and Support Centers	53
8. Dissemination of the Legal framework	54
9. Prevention and Reintegration of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Minorities	56
10. Lessons Learned	59
11. Priorities for the Next Quarter	60
VI. Annexes	61

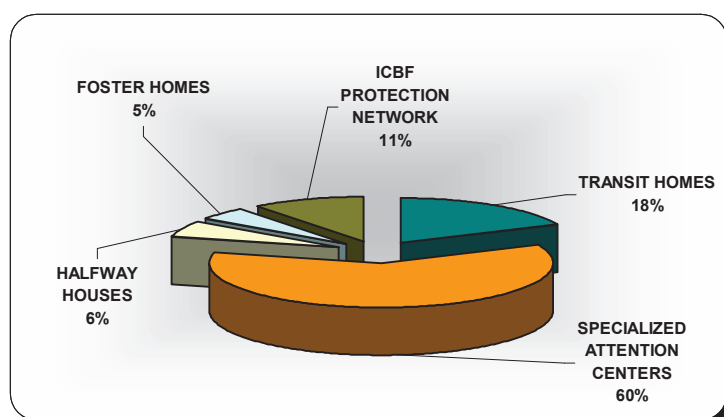


## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 34 months the Program has been operating, it has grown continuously. A total of 1,556 boys and girls has already received attention, and the Program has worked with them to restore and guarantee the exercise of their rights. The growth has been reflected not only in greater coverage but also in the institutional response.

When the Program began in March 2001, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) had four centers, located in Bogota and in Chia, where they cared for 80 child ex-combatants. In December 2003, the Program had 27 functioning centers and 33 foster homes. These cared for 685 children in eight cities around the country: Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Bucaramanga, Pereira, Tunja, Ibagué, and Cajicá.

As part of the Program, a specialized assistance model has been designed, under the responsibility of the ICBF; the coordination of actions and contributions from other government institutions has been strengthened; and an evident interest in supporting the effort has been shown by international cooperation.



At the close of the quarter covered by this report, the status of the 685 boys and girls receiving assistance in one of the Program centers was as follows: 125 were being cared for in the Transitional Care Facilities (HAT), 416 were in the Specialized Attention Centers (CAE), 39 in Halfway Houses (CJ), 33 in Foster Homes (HT), and 72 in the ICBF Protection Network. All the children in the Program have been guaranteed the right to life, to an identity, to a relationship with their families, to access to health services and food, to proper housing, to have

adequate clothing, to access formal and vocational education, to opportunities to prepare for the future through employment training, work placements and income-generating resources, but above all, the right to be a child again, to play, to take pleasure in life, and to recover their postponed childhoods.

A total of 685 scholarships from the fund established in the Program have been awarded for educational purposes; all the children who enter the Program are evaluated, they do preparatory activities and when they move to the CAE they immediately have access to educational tutoring to bring them up to grade level and facilitate their access to formal education. Likewise, when they enter the Program, all children receive a medical evaluation, and psychological and nutrition support. The Program has processed the paperwork to obtain legal identity papers (the civil registry document) for 444 young people and has assisted 257 young people to return to their families. A total of 227 youths have received a scholarship for vocational training and 269 have been given guidance on making life plans that include work/career goals and pathways to achieve them. At the end of the quarter, 963 positions had been generated in the Program that the young beneficiaries have gradually been moving into.

PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES BY AREA		
Access to financial assistance for education	685	100%
Medical, psychological and nutritional evaluation	685	100%
Paperwork for identity documents	444	65%
Reintegration into their families	257	38%
Employment counseling	269	39%
<b>TOTAL BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>685</b>	

In addition to the direct and complementary actions carried out by the Colombian government, the Program has strengthened the capacity of the ICBF to respond appropriately to the problem of caring for children under the age of 18 who are victims of the armed conflict by i) contracting suitable professionals; ii) technical support on developing and revising the outline and protocols for each phase of care (HAT,



CAE, CJ and HT); iii) the joint design of new care delivery methods such as the foster homes and community care; iv) holding training activities for the officials of the regional ICBF offices as well as the technical teams of the operating centers and jointly between the ICBF, the Ombudsman's Office, and the IOM; and v) development of implementing legislation on the processes of administrative protection that are the responsibility of the ICBF.

Likewise, during the reporting period, the program supported the ICBF to open seven new centers and assumed the costs per child for up to two months, while the ICBF conducted hiring and procurement processes and transferred funds from the national headquarters to the regional offices. Another significant contribution was the transportation of young people from the demobilization sites to the cities where new operating centers were opened.

During this quarter, special emphasis was placed on projects aimed at evaluating and strengthening the care capacity of the operating institutions. A cost and standards of care study was conducted on the centers, and a consultant was contracted to offer administrative, financial, organizational and management training to the NGO operators, to assist them to overcome management problems. However, during the quarter, four institutions closed down because they were unable to maintain service provision to the ICBF, primarily due to financial and administrative difficulties.

In alliance with the ICBF, the Ombudsman's Office, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the USAID-IOM prepared a communications plan aimed at the mass media -- television, radio, press, magazines and posters and entitled "Inter-institutional Initiative to Prevent the Involvement of Boys, Girls and Young People in the Armed Conflict." This will be launched at the end of January 2004. The campaign includes a television commercial, a radio spot, and two posters. This communication strategy has been strengthened by signing an agreement with the UN radio program "Manos Unidas" (Joined Hands) through which six radio programs with storylines on the prevention of recruitment of boys and girls will be produced and aired through the network of community radio stations.

Also in the area of Prevention, during this quarter the mapping of risks and vulnerabilities was carried out in 26 municipalities of seven departments: Antioquia, Santander, Cundinamarca, Cauca, Putumayo, Chocó and Huila. A total of 64 workshops were held with officials, 124 with parents and caregivers, and 272 with boys, girls and young people, for a total of 4,089 beneficiaries. In these workshops 55 types of projects were identified.

With respect to activities with indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, three activities were emphasized during the reporting period:

- i) The agreement with the Ombudsman's Office for training in human rights, international humanitarian law, and indigenous legal codes in Choco was renewed.
- ii) An agreement was signed with the Ombudsman's Office and the Latin American Association for Human Rights (ALDHU) to design the Legal Route to the Demobilization of Indigenous Children, and for the promotion of human rights and rights of the indigenous child in 64 indigenous governing councils at the national level.
- iii) The agreement with the Department of Cauca concluded. To provide continuity for projects that are in the implementation phase with the indigenous communities, an agreement was made with the Association of Community Projects (APC), which draws together indigenous governing councils and children's rights organizations.

Finally, the processes that have taken place to consolidate the support networks for young people (with employers, media and artists) should be highlighted. During this quarter a compact disc was recorded with a theme that was donated to the Program and performed by well-known national vocalists. These artists advised a group of young people who sang the chorus to the song. During the coming quarter, it will be launched after a video-clip to accompany the CD is filmed. This will be distributed through a strategy of social awareness raising that has already been established.



## II. CONTEXT

### *The Politics*

It is undisputable that the most relevant event of the last quarter of 2003 has been a referendum initiated and supported by the President, which took place on October 25. Contrary to all expectations, especially considering the great popularity of the President, the referendum did not deliver the results that the Administration had expected. In fact, only the first question received enough favorable answers to pass. The question had to do with establishing the institution of political death for corrupted politicians.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, it goes without questioning that the results have changed the political scene in the country, even though the results were close.

The social movement “Colombians for the referendum” eventually questioned the results before the National Electoral Council arguing that there had been serious inconsistencies in the voting registration process. However, the National Electoral Council denied the request since legal mechanisms to refute the registration process were available before voting day.

The mayoral elections, which took place the following day, delivered results that were different from those the President had hoped for. In fact the candidates that he allegedly supported in the cities of Bogotá and Cali, lost, though the one in Medellín won. The biggest defeat seems to have been the victory of former union leader Luis Eduardo Garzón in Bogotá. He represents a leftist coalition known as “Democratic Pole”.

The first visible consequence of the new political reality was a ministerial crisis, which led to the resignation of a number of Ministers from the Government—a surprise in itself since the President had stated that the Ministers he appointed would serve for the full four years. The first Minister to resign was the Minister of the Interior<sup>2</sup> Fernando Londoño. He was known for making strong declarations against public officials, and particularly against congressmen, which ended up severely straining the relationship between the Administration and Congress. Besides, large part of the responsibility for the lack of success of the referendum fell upon him, since the Minister of the interior in Colombia is responsible to push forward the policies of the Administration.

The Defense Minister resigned next.<sup>3</sup> Although the Minister had popular support (which actually increased as the military performance improved under the President Democratic Security Plan) her relationship with the military leadership was quite tense. Often, the disagreements between her and the commander of the Armed Forces, General Jorge Enrique Mora Rangel, became public and would be carried out through the media. However, she was not the only one that was asked to go. Even before a new Minister of Defense was named, the military leadership had been changed<sup>4</sup>. Finally, the Housing, Development and Environmental Protection Minister Cecilia Rodríguez<sup>5</sup> resigned.

The first two Ministers were replaced with individuals who have a business background,<sup>6</sup> which has been seen as an effort to improve the efficiency of resource allocation and the improvement of the relationship with the military leadership (in the case of the Defense Ministry) and with Congress (in the case of the Ministry of Interior). Especially in the case of the Ministry of the Interior it became necessary to find strong

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<sup>1</sup> The National Electoral Council published the results of the referendum on January 2, 2004, 68 after the vote. There were 15 questions in all. Only one received enough favorable votes to pass.

<sup>2</sup> Minister Londoño resignation was accepted on November 5, 2003. After the referendum, all ministers presented proforma resignations so as to give the president the freedom to manage a difficult situation in the way he thought best.

<sup>3</sup> EL TIEMPO; “Relevo en el Ministerio de Defensa”; November 10, 2002, p. 1-1 and 1-2. It refers to the final controversy the Minister of Defense had with the Generals. This one was about MREs

<sup>4</sup> General Mora Rangel was asked to retire. He was replaced by General Ospina, the Commander of the Army, and he by General Martín Orlando Carreño. General Teodoro Campo, the Commander of the Police also retired. It is important to underline that the actual retirement of General Mora and the nomination of the new military leadership occurred after the new Minister took office.

<sup>5</sup> The replacement was Sandra Suárez Pérez, who had been the Director of Plan Colombia until then.

<sup>6</sup> Sabas Pretelt de La Vega, the president of Fenalco, the biggest business association in the Country, was named Minister of the Interior. Jorge Alberto Uribe Echavarría, another businessmen was named Minister of Defense.



allies in Congress to push forward all the economic reforms the President wanted and particularly those related with fiscal adjustment.

In fact, even before he took office, the new Minister of the Interior Sabas Pretelt de La Vega already knew which key initiatives the government wanted before the session recessed for Christmas. Among these were: a Tax Reform, an Anti-Terrorist Law, an "Immunity Bill" for illegal armed groups, and the Structural Reform of the State.<sup>7</sup> The President also announced that he was interested in pursuing a political agreement to ensure that these reforms would be prioritized. He proposed the creation of three mixed committees<sup>8</sup>, each of which would be in charged of a reform: the pension system, the territorial division structure, and the restructuring of the state. The committees are formed by representatives of Congress, the Courts, prominent political parties, business, and social groups.

Finally, just a few days after the referendum, the Senate defeated the bill that proposed the re-election of the President. The proponent of the bill<sup>9</sup> stated that "Congress made Uribe pay for his defeat. If the referendum had passed, this bill would have received more than 80 favorable votes".<sup>10</sup>

### ***The Economy***

The Government, was confident that the referendum would pass and thus that it could promote fiscal adjustment through savings. The Finance Ministry had assured Colombian voters that if they approved the questions on fiscal and pension matters, the Government could save around twenty one billion Colombian Pesos in the next seven years. Moreover, the government would be able to save nineteen billion Colombian Pesos<sup>11</sup> if question number 14 would be approved. This sought to freeze fixed expenses, including salaries and pensions above two hundred and fifty dollars.

Just a few days after the referendum, when the results were still unsure<sup>12</sup>, President Uribe announced what is known as Plan B: cut government spending by 2,2 billion Colombian Pesos, without compromising social investment; put before Congress a harsh fiscal package; and promoted the cooperation between the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank to search for mechanisms to lower the service payment of the debt and to spread them in time.<sup>13</sup>

The Government has indeed presented a new Tributary Reform Bill, which was modified and finally approved during extraordinary sessions at the end of the year. The main points are: the increase in the bank transaction fee from 3 to 4 per thousand; the creation of a property tax; and the increase of number of people that will have to declare taxes. The government also announced that it will push for another tax reform in 2004. This would extend the IVA tax (consumer good tax) to all goods and services and eliminate special pension provisions.<sup>14</sup>

Regarding the issue of monetary reserves, at the end of November, the Board of Directors of the Central Bank announced that between one hundred and five hundred million dollars could be taken out of the international reserves so as to lighten the load of servicing the debt from the national budget, without risking its capacity to prevent or make front to extreme volatilities in the financial market. Those who support the initiative received the Central Bank's response with some disbelief, arguing that it is a very small amount,<sup>15</sup> while those against the initiative argue that the decrease of the reserves constitute a bad precedent for the monetary and exchange-rate policy of the country.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> El Tiempo; "7 proyectos, prioridad en la agenda legislativa"; November 11, 2003, p. 1-4.

<sup>8</sup> El Tiempo; "Soplan vientos de más reformas"; December 30, 2003, p. 1-2.

<sup>9</sup> Senador Hernán Andrade.

<sup>10</sup> El Tiempo, "Se hundió la reelección"; October 29, 2003, p. 1-3.

<sup>11</sup> El Tiempo; "Por Referendo, ahorro será de \$20,9 billones"; October 15, 2003, p. 1-1 and 1-2.

<sup>12</sup> It was expected that at least four or five questions had reached sufficient support to pass.

<sup>13</sup> El Tiempo, "Apretón e inversión social"; October 30, 2003, p. 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3.

<sup>14</sup> El Tiempo, "Impuestos: se avecina otra reforma"; December 30, 2003, p. 1-1 and 1-2.

<sup>15</sup> Colombia has a foreign debt of 23 billion dollars.

<sup>16</sup> El Tiempo, "Descontento por uso de reservas"; November 29, 2003, p. 1-2.





Finally, the IMF approved the government proposal to reduce the fiscal deficit and international debt, but it did not support the idea of pay off part of the debt with the national reserves. The IMF also seemed satisfied with the results of the economy in 2003. In fact, the greater than expected growth and the decrease of unemployment resulted in the support for an increase in the fiscal deficit, which had been proposed by the economic team for 2003 and 2004.

Economic indicators generally show an improvement; however, the economic one continues to be the most challenging one for the administration. The Consumer Price Index for 2003 was 6.49%,<sup>17</sup>. Even though it passed the 6% agreed to with the IMF, it is still the lowest it has been since 1962.

Unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges of the current administration, even though it has diminished slightly. In November of this year, unemployment 13.3%, a slight drop from 14.9% of November of 2002. In the cities unemployment diminished from 15.5% to 14.1%.<sup>18</sup>

Though the GNP is still unknown, it is estimated that the economy grew by more than 2%, which was the goal of the year, and may display a rate of growth of around 2.5%.

## ***The Conflict***

### ***Human Rights***

2003<sup>19</sup> was a good year in terms of Human Rights for Colombia, though human rights abuses are still high relative to most other countries in the world. Perhaps the most relevant indicator that things are looking up is that homicides have dropped by 22% in 2003 relative to 2002, which means that the homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants dropped from 65.7 to 51.4. Displacement has also dropped in 2003. Though statistics show a decrease of 49%<sup>20</sup>, CODHES warns that such decrease corresponds to a new modus operandi of the illegal armed groups. That is, armies are forbidding individuals and families from leaving the areas they inhabit; in other words, they “confine” the population.

Despite the positive tendency outlined above, it is important to underline that in certain areas, the population continues to suffer greatly due to abuses related to the conflict. These are: Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, the Catatumbo and the province of Ocaña in Norte de Santander, and the following departments: Cesar, Arauca y Casanare.<sup>21</sup>

There has been a significant decrease in homicides of traditionally targeted sectors of the population, such as union members (-61%), mayors (-30%), journalists (-33%), indigenous people (-4%)<sup>22</sup> and teachers (-58%). However, council members continue to be an important target; in fact, while 49 were killed in 2002, 56 were killed in 2003, which represents an increase of about 14%.

Massacres have diminished by 38% while the number of victims by 40%. Moreover, after several years of fast paced ascendancy, have decreased to 2,545 in 2002 and further to 1,856 in 2003. In other words they have dropped by 27% in 2003 relative to 2002. Besides the aforementioned improvements in the human rights category, the European Union continues to condition its 33 million euros investment in 62 municipalities<sup>23</sup> to the serious search of a negotiated end of the conflict and to upholding the human right considerations put forth by different organizations, and in particular by the UN.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> DANE, Newsletter, January 5, 2004.

<sup>18</sup> DANE, Newsletter, December 26, 2003.

<sup>19</sup> Office of the VicePresident, Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Human Rights; “Compared indicators on the Human Rights situation in Colombia: October 2003”. The human rights indicators that are discussed in this document are taken from this document of the Office of the Vice President.

<sup>20</sup> CODHES Informs, Newsletter from the Consultancy group on Human Rights and Displacement; Year 7, No. 46, December 10, 2003.

<sup>21</sup> EL TIEMPO; “Caen violaciones de DD.HH.”; December 30, 2003, p. 2-8.

<sup>22</sup> Until September of 2003.

<sup>23</sup> Norte de Santander, with 15 municipalities; Eastern Antioquia with 23 municipalities, the region of the Colombian Macizo and the high part of the River Patía, with 24 municipalities (12 in Nariño and 12 in Cauca).

<sup>24</sup> EL TIEMPO; “UE condiciona ayuda a Colombia”; December 2 2003, p. 1-3.



## *Accomplishments of the Government against the illegal armed groups*

The most significant accomplishments of the government were the captures of important members of the FARC, and particularly of 'Simón Trinidad'<sup>25</sup>. Though Trinidad's capture "does not change the balance of power in the war, it has great symbolic value"<sup>26</sup> in terms of the government offensive against the illegal armed groups.

Apart from Trinidad, the commander of the Front 22<sup>27</sup> was captured. Additionally, other commanders have been killed: The lieutenant commander of the *Columna Móvil Teófilo Forero*,<sup>28</sup> and the commanders of the fronts *Policarpa Salavarrieta*,<sup>29</sup> *Esteban Ramírez*,<sup>30</sup> and *Manuela Beltrán*.<sup>31</sup>

In terms of the armed struggle, the government also had some positive results.<sup>32</sup> The number of captures during 2003 increased from 5,119 in 2002 to 10,133; that is by almost 100%. Furthermore, the capture of the members of self defense groups increased by more than 130%, while those of the guerrilla by 85%. The number of combatants that downed by the army increased by more than 20%, and specifically by 85% for the paramilitary groups and 14% for the guerrillas.

2,538 combatants demobilized in 2003<sup>33</sup>, around 80% more than those demobilized in 2002. Of these, 697 were members of paramilitary groups<sup>34</sup> and 1,841 were members of the guerrillas. In 2002, 1,412 guerrillas demobilized, which represents an increase of 30%.

Most activities related to the attacks against the infrastructure have decreased: downing of energy towers (-32.5%), of communication towers (-69.4%), of bridges (-67%), of communication routes (-54.4%) and of water plants (-75%). Attacks against populations have also decreased from 32 in 2002 to 5 in 2003 (around 85%). However, attacks against oil pipelines have increased from 74 in 2002 to 179 in 2003, which represents an increase of 142%.

In 2003 around 133 thousand hectares of coca were eradicated through aerial spraying (an increase of 2%), while the eradication of opium decreased by more than 11%. Cocaine and coca base seizures increased by 20 and 36% respectively. Furthermore, the seizure of solid precursors increased by more than 27%, but that of liquid precursors diminished by about 1%.

It is also important to note that three events characterize the strategic choices of the military. First, the decision to undertake prolonged actions<sup>35</sup>, and actions against strategic objectives. This was put in practice in the department of Cundinamarca, where it achieved the dismantling of one of the most important fronts of the FARC and the battlefield death of several important commanders.<sup>36</sup> Second, the adoption of commando-style warfare with an important component of intelligence has permitted the

<sup>25</sup> Ricardo Ovidio Palmera, 'Simón Trinidad', reached some notoriety when he was named member of the agenda-setting committee and then as a member of the negotiating table during the peace negotiations with the FARC, which took place during the Administration of Andrés Pastrana between 1999 and 2002.

<sup>26</sup> SEMANA Magazine; "Por Fin"; January 5, 2002.

<sup>27</sup> Wilmer Marín Cano, 'Hugo', was captured during a road block as he was approaching Bogotá. He operated in Cundinamarca.

<sup>28</sup> Edgar Gustavo Navarro Morales, 'El Mocho', accused of having killed an American and a Colombian passenger after their plane crashed near Florencia in February of 2002, was killed at the end of October. This is an important event since his organization has been amongst the most active of the FARC lately. To such organization are attributed the highjacking of Senator Gechem Turbay (event that caused the end of the negotiations), and the bomb at the Club Nogal, which also took place in February of last year.

<sup>29</sup> José Abel Luengas Dávila, 'Pablo Morillo', was a battlefield casualty on October 22 in the municipality of Pacho, Cundinamarca.

<sup>30</sup> The last two, 'Marco Aurelio Buendía' and Javier Gutiérrez died in combat with the army at the end of October 2003 in the municipality of Topaipí in Cundinamarca.

<sup>31</sup> Luis Alexis Castellanos, 'Manguera', died at the beginning of in the municipality of Ubalá, Cundinamarca.

<sup>32</sup> Ministry of Defense; "Resultados Fuerza Pública – Violencia y Criminalidad – Terrorismo"; December 31 2003. En Data from such documents have been used in this part of the section.

<sup>33</sup> This data refers to individual demobilizations, only. It does not take into consideration the demobilizations related to the negotiations with paramilitary groups.

<sup>34</sup> Paramilitary groups did not demobilize up until 2002 in that the law did not afford them any benefits. The law was finally modified in 2002 law (Law 782 de 2002).

<sup>35</sup> The military offensive in Cundinamarca begun in June and ended at the beginning of November.

<sup>36</sup> SEMANA Magazine; "La primera batalla final"; November 10, 2003.





capture of important leaders such as Simon Trinidad and the second in command at of the *Teófilo Forero* Movil column.

Finally, the presence of the National Police in all the municipalities has permitted to regain state presence over the country. Only 18 municipalities still lack a police force.<sup>37</sup>

### *FARC operations*

During this last quarter, the FARC undertook a number of violent actions. Among the most visible were: an attack against Jorge Visbal<sup>38</sup>, the leader of a business association; a car bomb place in a open air mall in the southern part of Bogotá,<sup>39</sup> a grenade attack launched against a restaurant in the entertainment district of Bogotá<sup>40</sup>; and the explosion of three bombs in the city of Barranquilla.<sup>41</sup>

### *Laws and legislation*

Congress approved a law known as “Anti-terrorist Statute” on December 10, which allows to “intercept communications, carry out searches and detentions without a warrant, and compile home registries”.<sup>42</sup> Those in favor of this law argue that it provides tools that are necessary to confront terrorism. However, the law has caused some concern in the Office of the High commissioner for Peace of the United Nations who believes that it goes against the international treaties signed by Colombia and it dismisses the 24 recommendations made to the Colombian Government in the report of March 2003.<sup>43</sup>

### *Negotiations with the paramilitary*

There has been relevant progress in the negotiations with some paramilitary groups during the last quarter of 2003. First, two paramilitary fronts have actually demobilized, the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara* of the AUC and the *Autodefensas Campesinas de Ortega*. Second, the demobilization of other fronts, including important ones such as *Frente Bananero*, are scheduled to take place progressively throughout the next couple of years. Third, the *Bloque Central Bolívar*, joined the same negotiating table as the AUC.

The demobilization of the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara* is without doubt the most important event of the quarter. The *Cacique Nutibara* was active in the urban area of Medellín. Its commander was Diego Fernando Murillo, better known as “Don Berna”, allegedly a drug dealer from the era of Pablo Escobar. The demobilization took place in Medellín on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November during an emotional ceremony where the 870 men who formed the *Cacique Nutibara* turned in their armament and vowed to work for peace in Colombia. Their supreme commander, Carlos Castaño, whom they visibly continue to respect, made a virtual appearance during the ceremony to show his willingness to disband the organization and to reiterate his confidence that the government would make presence in the territories left by his retreating army<sup>44</sup>.

While the demobilized paramilitary made their way to the location where they would start their reintegration into society, the first signs of uncertainty and doubt about this particular demobilization surfaced. First, the international scene remains divided on the negotiations with the paramilitaries; while

<sup>37</sup> EL Tiempo; “Quedan 18 pueblos sin Policía”; November 4 de 2003, p. 1-4.

<sup>38</sup> The president of Fedegan, an important business organization, who was almost hit by rocket as he entered his office on October 15, 2003.

<sup>39</sup> In the Restrepo neighborhood. Three people were hurt on October 22, 2003.

<sup>40</sup> On November 15 a member of the Columna Móvil Teófilo Forero launched a grenade toward a table where various northamerican were sitting. One person died (Colombian).

<sup>41</sup> On December 16 three bombs were activated in different stores. One person died and 74 were wounded.

<sup>42</sup> EL Tiempo; “Aprobado el estatuto antiterrorista”; December 11, 2003, p. 1-1 and 1-2.

<sup>43</sup> EL Tiempo; “Pulso por recomendaciones de la ONU”; Diciembre 13, 2003, p. 1-6.

<sup>44</sup> In his speech, Carlos Castaño stated that “The AUC are not demobilizing to give way to subversive groups, but to cede its territories to the army of the government”. He also added that the negotiation will have to consider issues such as: compensation for the victims of the conflict; legal, social and economic benefits for the demobilized, and an agreement to exonerate those who had committed human rights violations. *EL Tiempo*, “Diciembre 7, próxima entrega” November 26, 2003



some international players such as the OAS openly support the demobilization<sup>45</sup>, others such as Human Rights Watch classify it as a “parody” and a “show of impunity”<sup>46</sup>. Second, the role of the Verification Commission remains unclear in that there is no agreed or established mechanism that permits to check whether the paramilitaries who demobilize have in fact refrained from committing illegal acts or not<sup>47</sup>. The role of the Verification Commission has been limited to verifying that all of the weapons that the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara* had agreed to turn in were in fact turned in<sup>48</sup>.

Third, although the GOC has found legal ground to initiate the reintegration of the paramilitary in the Decree 128 of 2003<sup>49</sup>, there is no known established reintegration program for those who demobilize as the result of peace negotiations. The most difficult issue concerns the legal treatment of those members that have committed human rights abuses. An “impunity bill” which grants the suspension of prison sentences for those responsible of having violated human rights was presented to Congress in late August. However, after it received criticisms from the domestic and international arena (including people who traditionally supported the President), Congress stalled upon discussing it, and allowed the legislative session to end without a having achieved resolution on the issue. In the mean time, the High Commissioner for Peace revealed the existence of a new law proposal, according to which those paramilitaries that are accused of having committed Human Rights violation would pay a minimum 5 year sentence on a farm or in their own house instead of spending time in prison<sup>50</sup>.

The forth obstacle to the reinsertion of the paramilitary is extradition since neither the GOC nor the United States seem willing to renege the extradition agreement to enable the negotiation with the paramilitary to proceed. Finally, money may be a problem. Although the Office of Mayor Luis Pérez in Medellín stated that the government of Medellín could contribute around 6 million dollars toward the reintegration program of the *Cacique Nutibara*, the administration of Sergio Fajardo, which was sworn in on January 1<sup>st</sup>, has not found such funds to be available.

Another, less controversial demobilization has also occurred. This one took place in Ortega, Cauca. The 155 people who demobilized in Ortega belonged to an older and more traditional self-defense group, which had been created in the 1960 as a response to the violence of the liberal party first and then of the guerrillas in the area. This group was completely independent of the AUC and seems to be asking for goods or benefits that the whole community will enjoy, as their demobilization package. Among these is a paved road<sup>51</sup>. Other demobilizations are planned to take place in 2004; however, a timetable and specific information on their progress are unknown<sup>52</sup>.

The third significant event of the quarter concerned the negotiating table. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the government announced that *Bloque Central Bolívar*, an important AUC faction active in eastern Antioquia and Caldas, decided to join the negotiating table with the AUC. This occurrence is significant because the *Bloque Central Bolívar* controls around 5,500 men, which corresponds to about one third of the total demobilizing force. The *Autodefensas Campesinas del Casanare* (ACC), a paramilitary group active in the south eastern part of Colombia and the *Autodefensas del Magdalena Medio*, an older self-defense group active in the middle part of the River Magdalena, are still holding separate conversations with the government. Finally, two factions of the AUC remain outside the negotiations, the *Bloque Metro* (active in

<sup>45</sup> Sergio Caramaña, the representative of the OAS at the event announced that said organization would send a mission to Colombia to follow the process. *El Tiempo*, “Diciembre 7, próxima entrega” November 26, 2003

<sup>46</sup> It was José Miguel Vivanco, the director of Human Rights Watch who used such harsh words to describe the day events. *El Tiempo*, “A las 7 am arranca la desmovilización”, November 25, 2003

<sup>47</sup> *El Tiempo*, “Y ahora qué sigue en el proceso?” November 26, 2003

<sup>48</sup> Differently from most demobilizations, in this case no “weapon-per-man” rule was followed. In fact, less than 200 weapons were turned in by the 870 ex-combatants. The leaders of the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara* justified the disproportionate weapon-to-men ratio by arguing that the group exercised primary intelligence work, which did not require weapons. *El Tiempo*, “Una desmovilización inédita”, Noviembre, 24 2003.

<sup>49</sup> Another important but subsequent document is the agreement between the Government and the ex- Combatants of the *Cacique Nutibara*, which was signed on December 10. The most relevant aspects of the agreement are: 1) the Mayor’s Office would link the demobilized individuals with jobs in the public or private sector; 2) a monitoring system would be agreed upon by January 2004.

<sup>50</sup> *El Tiempo*, “Paras pagarían penas en granjas” December 1, 2003.

<sup>51</sup> *El Tiempo*, “Ya no necesito mi arma” December 8, 2003

<sup>52</sup> *El Tiempo*, “Nueva Antioquia verá el desarme” November 9, 2003



OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	STATUS
<p>4. Promote children's access and permanence in the school system and in non-formal education programs in the selected municipalities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 children and young people are enrolled in the school system in 26 selected municipalities.</li> <li>• 600 children and young people who had dropped out of school or are old for their grade level are now enrolled in classroom programs for accelerated learning in 26 selected municipalities.</li> <li>• 150 youths are enrolled in vocational training programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A diagnosis was developed during the quarter to select the municipalities and beneficiary children.</li> <li>• In four municipalities (Santander de Quilichao, La Vega, Floridablanca and Girón), the need to support school enrollment for the upcoming academic year, which begins in February 2004, was identified. Five hundred (500) young beneficiaries were identified as well.</li> <li>• The municipalities with risk of recruitment and classrooms for accelerated learning were selected in conjunction with the Ministry of Education (Quipile, Nimaima, La Palma, La Peña, La Vega, Cajibío, Santander de Quilichao, Totoró, Pitalito, Iquira, Garzón and Neiva). Children in these towns will receive support to enroll in the accelerated learning system.</li> <li>• Using the risk map, 11 vocational training projects were drafted for youngsters in Barbosa, Cauca, Segovia, Totoró, Novita, La Palma, La Peña, Quipile, Iquira and Pitalito. These initiatives involve agriculture and livestock, comprehensive farm management and small business administration. 300 beneficiary children were identified.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Make arrangements to start income generation projects with the families of children who are at risk of joining insurgent groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More income for 150 families whose children are vulnerable to recruitment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eleven project ideas were developed for income generation projects to be carried out in Barbosa, Cauca, Segovia, Totoró, Novita, La Palma, La Peña, Quipile, Iquira and Heliconia for 590 direct beneficiaries, including teachers and children.</li> <li>• 505 families have benefited.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Help to reinforce public policy for children by including youth recruitment prevention as an item on the agenda of agencies responsible for national, departmental and regional planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The topic of recruitment prevention has been included in the Ten-year Plan for Children, the National Plan to Eradicate Child Labor and in the municipal development plans of the towns singled out for the Program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The topic of preventing children from joining the armed conflict was included in six municipal development plans through projects drafted as a result of applying the risk map in Heliconia, Segovia, La Vega, Bahía Solano, Novita and Cimitarra.</li> <li>• Synergies were established with the ILO International Program for the Eradication of Child Labor (IPEC) and UNICEF to institute preventive plans.</li> <li>• The Ministry of Education and the departmental education offices were lobbied to define and strategies for improving the quality of education as a way to prevent children from joining illegal armed groups.</li> </ul>



OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	STATUS
7. Design and implement a national awareness and information campaign on the problem of children's recruitment by insurgent groups, preventive strategies, and the responsibility of institutions and citizens in dealing with this problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four million Colombians were familiarized with the problem of children and the armed conflict, through the mass media and alternative means of conveying information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A television commercial and a radio commercial were produced and two posters were designed.</li> <li>A media committee was formed to handle the press in relation to launching the campaign.</li> <li>An agreement was signed with UNDP to implement the radio proposal in conjunction with its Manos Amigas program. Community, school and commercial radio stations in the municipalities where the risk mapping strategy is being applied will broadcast it.</li> <li>The Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Office of the President of Colombia, the ILO International Program for the Eradication of Child Labor, UNICEF and ICBF are involved in the campaign.</li> <li>The inter-institutional committee began to make plans for launching an initiative to prevent children from joining the armed conflict. It is intended to transcend the publicity campaign.</li> </ul>
8. Evaluate the progress and results of the prevention strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The prevention strategy is being evaluated every six months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The methodology and the conditions for applying the risk map in the seven selected departments during the first phase of intervention were evaluated. The vulnerability and risk mapping methodology is being reviewed as a result of the evaluation.</li> </ul>
INCOME GENERATION AND JOB PLACEMENT		
1. Improve what is known about the profile of youngsters who enter the Program and specify their development expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youngsters who enter the Program have received apprenticeship and income generation counseling.</li> <li>All youngsters who take part in the Program have been familiarized with the income generation strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of the NGOs implementing the Program have been trained to apply the formats for gathering information and defining the apprenticeship profile.</li> <li>A profile has been developed for 307 youngsters.</li> <li>A work plan to implement the income generation strategy was designed and introduced to 269 youngsters.</li> <li>A process is now underway to select offers for designing the informative primers.</li> </ul>
2. Provide youngster who join the Program with job skills that give them access to a source of earned income, as part of their basic training to develop psychotechnical skills and apprenticeship learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>350 youngsters have been trained in processes to prepare for apprenticeship learning and pre-work adjustment.</li> <li>240 youngsters have received instruction through courses on vocational training and job hunting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>269 youngsters have been trained (77% of the goal) in learning by doing, with an emphasis on their vocational course.</li> <li>227 vocational scholarships have been granted (94.5% of the goal); 38 were approved this quarter,</li> <li>Theoretical-practical learning was supplemented during the quarter with business visits for 25 youngsters.</li> </ul>



OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	STATUS
<p>3. Provide orientation to help youngsters develop an entrepreneurial spirit and to explore viable productive initiatives.</p> <p>4. Identify investment opportunities to create businesses or to make better use of installed capacity, as a way to generate stable employment for youngsters who are involved in the Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 170 youngsters have been trained in basic job skills.</li> <li>• 100 youngsters have jobs.</li> <li>• 70 youngsters with a basic entrepreneurial profile received orientation on project design and implementation.</li> <li>• Productive projects were identified, designed (30) and implemented (20) with the private sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45 youngsters received training in specific fields: 20 in jewelry making and 25 in the logistics of fairs and events (26.5% of the goal). The figures accumulated during the previous quarter were maintained.</li> <li>• 45 youngsters obtained jobs: i) 20 involving fair logistics (14 part time and six full time); ii) 25 trained and temporarily employed in setting up a printing shop (45% of the goal).</li> <li>• The Small Productive Initiatives (PIN) model was designed to implement the strategy with enterprising youngsters.</li> <li>• 58 youngsters ( 32 males and 26 females) are involved in productive initiatives with management tutoring (82 % of the goal).</li> <li>• Thirteen projects were designed and seven are being implemented.</li> <li>• To guarantee stability, the CIP strategy was redirected towards institutions with more management capacity and towards more involvement on the part of private business.</li> <li>• Fourteen initiatives with private business were designed (46% of the goal) and four are being implemented (22% of the goal). The other 10 are in the process of being set up.</li> <li>• Six new initiatives with private business were designed during the quarter.</li> <li>• 963 jobs have been created through the income generation strategy, to which youngsters in the Program will have access.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Institutionalize implementation of the Program by building public and private partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional and business support networks have been established to strengthen joint development of productive activities and projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been progress towards conveying the strategy to private business, through forums and meetings designed to involve businessmen in the Program.</li> <li>• Preparations have begun for an international conference on best practices in productive reintegration and job placement. This effort is being coordinated with ICBF, <i>Fundación Restrepo Barco</i>, the European Center for Strategic Thinking (CEPEI) and the Austrian Embassy.</li> </ul>





OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	STATUS
EDUCATION		
1. Provide orientation and support to improve education for youngsters at each institution involved in carrying out the Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing institutions have been advised on how to design and execute education modules to assist ex-combatant children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 implementing institutions (88% of the total) have received advice on executing their educational components. This was accomplished through 20 visits for supervision and technical assistance.</li> </ul>
2. Permanently systematize lessons learned in order to improve the quality of the education component.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The technical teams at the centers implementing the Program were provided with orientation and advice on how to design education projects for children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation was provided to seven implementing centers and their technical teams, for a total of approximately 21 people who received support to carry out their education projects.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lessons learned with respect to the education component have been systematized at each center.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational experiences have been systematized at the implementing centers and the agencies that provide educational services.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The performance of personnel responsible for implementing the education component was evaluated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The performance of teachers and instructors was analyzed, and training needs were identified as a result of this evaluation.</li> </ul>
3. Train personnel who work with the education component at the Program implementing institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A team of 20 professional teachers received specific training to assist children demobilized from the armed conflict.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45 teachers were trained to apply three educational options that are relevant for youngsters: accelerated learning,</li> <li>High school in stages and the CAFAM model for continuing education.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The training needs of professionals responsible for the education component were identified and supported to ensure it is implemented properly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training needs were identified.</li> <li>The technical teams were reinforced to develop teaching assessments and to determine the appropriate course of study for each child in the Program.</li> </ul>
4. Guarantee restoration of the right to education for youngsters who enter the Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of the children in the Program are enrolled in school systems relevant to their needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational assistance has been provided to 608 youngsters through formal methodologies relevant to their situation (60% of the goal).</li> <li>Scholarships were awarded to 184 children during the quarter.</li> <li>83 children were provided with support by reinforcing the basics for learning and their communication skills.</li> </ul>





STRENGTHENING THE ICBF PROGRAM		
OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	STATUS
1. Strengthen institutional capacity for assisting children demobilized from armed groups in terms of unifying criteria for action and implementing health, recreational-artistic, ethical-political and therapeutic projects from a psychosocial standpoint in an attempt to improve the quality of assistance and the social insertion process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A psychosocial care model was designed and is being applied to assist children demobilized from the armed conflict.</li> <li>• The centers are applying a psychosocial care model in the health, culture, art and recreation, ethical-political<sup>55</sup> and therapeutic areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15% headway in the process to develop modules with tools for psychosocial care and attention (stage 1).</li> </ul>
2. Establish a monitoring and evaluation system to follow-up on care and assistance provided to youngsters during the different stages of the Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A unified monitoring and evaluation system has been instituted at each of the care centers to follow up on the status of each youngster in the Program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care criteria matrices have been drawn up for the different stages of the Program (90% implemented)</li> <li>• Decision-making criteria matrices were designed for critical points in the process with beneficiary children (100% implemented)</li> <li>• A list of possible indicators of restoration of rights for evaluating processes, results and impact was developed (60% implemented).</li> </ul>
3. Broaden coverage at each stage of the Program (temporary homes, specialized attention centers and children's homes).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been an increase in the number of institutions (7) and openings (196) for children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine new institutions were opened with a capacity to handle 269 children. Nevertheless, it is important to bear in mind that others closed down at the same time. As a result, the number of openings for children at December 31 remained at 685 and the total number of children assisted by the Program was 1,375.</li> </ul>
4. Continue efforts to strengthen current implementing institutions from a technical and administrative standpoint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assistance provided to children has been reinforced from a technical and administrative standpoint.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project to strengthen institutions from an administrative and program standpoint was initiated. (15% implemented).</li> <li>• The study on quality standards and the cost of services to assist children at the centers was completed.</li> <li>• Guidelines were set for the foster homes.</li> </ul>
FAMILY REUNIFICATION		
1. Strengthen and encourage family reunification, if security is appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines are being applied in work with families on psychosocial support and reinforcement for reunification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were five family encounters during the quarter at the regional centers in Risaralda, Cundinamarca, Valle and Santander.</li> <li>• 125 youngsters benefited from family encounters during the quarter.</li> <li>• 34 youngsters were reunited with their families during the quarter.</li> <li>• In total, 156 youngsters have been reunited with their families through the Program.</li> </ul>

<sup>55</sup> Non-violent communication, exercise of relationships that build peace in everyday life, etc.



OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	STATUS
<b>CONTINGENCY PLAN</b>		
1. Support an appropriate government contingency plan in the event of mass demobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interinstitutional strategy was designed to provide assistance should there be a mass demobilization of children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A contingency plan was designed for the mass demobilization of 50, 100 and 200 youngsters.</li> <li>Contracts were signed to open CAEs with increased capacity, such as Salesianos, Somascos and Capuchinos.</li> </ul>
<b>REFERRAL AND SUPPORT CENTERS</b>		
1. Design and implement a strategy to establish regional referral and support centers to assist children demobilized from the conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategy has been designed to establish referral and support centers.</li> <li>Three referral and support centers were established and are now in operation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General guidelines for setting up referral centers have been defined.</li> <li>The first referral center was opened in Bogotá and is assisting 17 youngsters who completed the Program.</li> <li>An awareness campaign was conducted with Don Bosco (Cali) to open a second referral center.</li> </ul>
<b>DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON LEGAL STANDING</b>		
1. Disseminate information on the legal status of ex-combatant children to local, regional and national authorities and organizations in civil society to guarantee due process in legal and/or administrative action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>280 officials (juvenile court judges, public defenders in family court and municipal representatives for human rights) have been trained in the rules applicable to legal and administrative action involving ex-combatant children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>350 officials were trained.</li> <li>Two working committees were arranged with ICBF to consolidate the administrative proceedings required to assist children demobilized from the armed conflict.</li> <li>Eleven workshops on the legal route were held during the quarter with youngsters from the Program.</li> <li>Identification cards were obtained during the quarter for 444 (65%) youngsters being assisted by Program.</li> </ul>
<b>PREVENTION AND REINTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-COLOMBIAN MINORITIES</b>		
1. Consolidate the reintegration and prevention model for children from ethnic minority groups in Chocó and Cauca.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>160 indigenous and Afro-Colombian youngsters in Chocó are involved in cultural, educational and food security activities to prevent their recruitment by insurgent groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>147 indigenous and Afro-Colombian youngsters and 64 teachers have been trained in human rights and international humanitarian law.</li> <li>329 youngsters have benefited from agriculture and livestock projects for income earning and 75 have benefited from the construction of two tambo-schools for the Biakirude indigenous community in Chocó.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>120 indigenous and Afro-Colombian children in Cauca who are demobilized from insurgent groups are now benefiting from income generation projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>118 youngsters (98% of the goal) are involved in productive projects in Caldono, Cajibío, Caloto, Timbío, Sotaró and Piedamó.</li> </ul>



OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	STATUS
<b>PREVENTION AND REINTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-COLOMBIAN MINORITIES</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 indigenous and Afro-Colombian children in Cauca who are at risk of recruitment by insurgent groups are being served through cultural, educational and family reinforcement projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 215 youngsters are being served through cultural, educational and athletic projects in Caldone, Cajibío, Caloto, Timbío, Sotará and Piedamó.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 children who are members of ethnic groups in Putumayo are being served through recruitment prevention projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A basic diagnosis was done on the situation of children and the armed conflict in Putumayo.</li> <li>• Vulnerability and risk maps were prepared with institutions, parents and caregivers, children and young people in the municipalities of Mocoa and Puerto Asís. Coverage includes 96 indigenous and mestizo youngsters and 53 parents.</li> <li>• Risk factors were identified and assigned a priority.</li> <li>• An idea was developed for a family and community coexistence project in Mocoa.</li> </ul>

#### IV. FIGURES ON BENEFICIARIES AND THE PROGRAM PROFILE (ICBF AND ETHNIC MINORITIES)

A total of 1,556 ex-combatant children have been served since the start of the Program in March 2001, including 1,375 through the ICBF Protection Program and 181 ex-combatant children from indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. The risk-mapping project was initiated this quarter and its results are reflected in the 9,234 children who are beneficiaries of the prevention component. The Program had directly benefited 10,790 children by December 31, 2003.

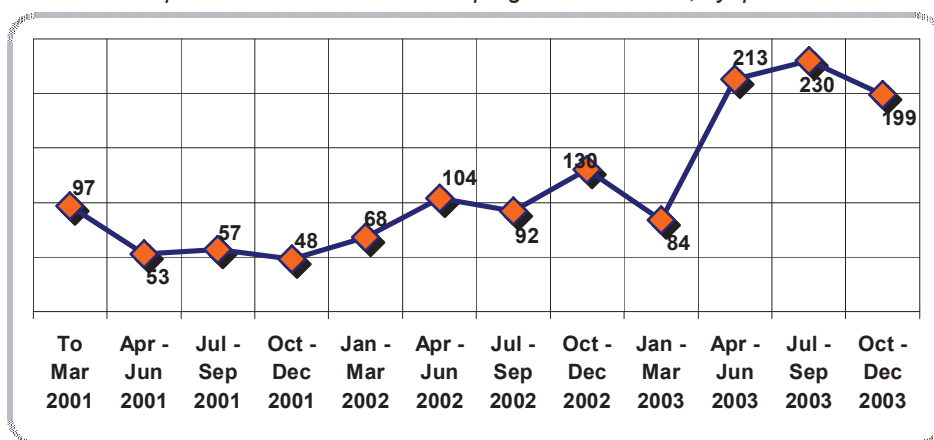
*Table No. 1: Report on beneficiaries*

<b>Beneficiaries Report</b>		
2001- 2003	Ex-combatant Children in the Specialized Assistance Program as of March 21, 2001	97
	Incoming Ex-combatant Children (entered the Specialized Assistance Program between March 21, 2001 and December 31, 2003)	1.278
	<b>Total ICBF Program</b>	<b>1.375</b>
	Ethnic Minorities as of December 31, 2003	181
	<b>Total Ex-Combatant</b>	<b>1.556</b>
	Prevention	9.234
	<b>Total IOM Program</b>	<b>10.790</b>



## 1. IOM-ICBF Program

Graph No. 1: Breakdown of new program admissions, by quarter



Fewer children entered the Program this quarter compared with the two previous quarters. Graph #1 shows a 13% decline in relation to the previous quarter. The 48 youngsters turned over by the Cacique Nutibara Block of the AUC in the city of Medellín were not listed as Program

entrees, because national authorities have yet to acknowledge their status as ex-combatants. However, the average number of children who enter the Program remains high, approximately two per day.

Graph No.2: The # of children entering the program during the quarter, by center (HAT, CAE, CJ, HT)

At the end of this quarter, the Program had 553 children and young people at its implementing centers. These include five (5) Temporary Attention Homes (HAT) with 125 children, who account for 23% of the beneficiaries; 16 Specialized Attention Centers (CAE) with 389 children, or 70% of the youngsters in the Program, and six (6) Children's Homes serving 39 youngsters (7% of the total). There were five (5) new institutions, in addition to the 22 in operation at the end of the last quarter. The coverage of assistance provided at the 27 centers increased by only three (3) openings, from 550 for 553. This is because the implementing centers were not as crowded during the quarter.

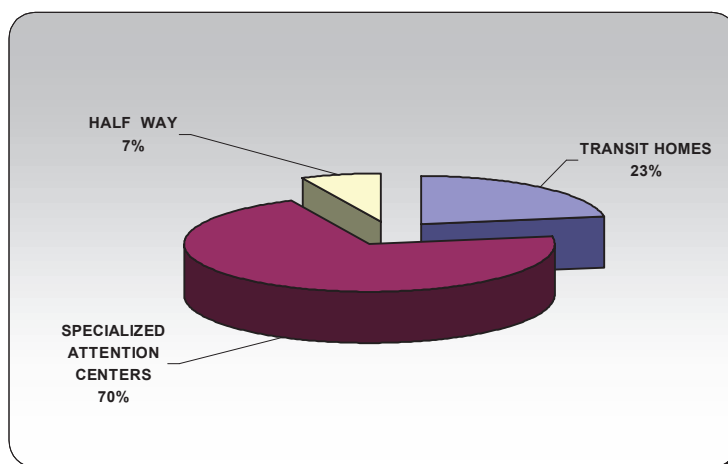


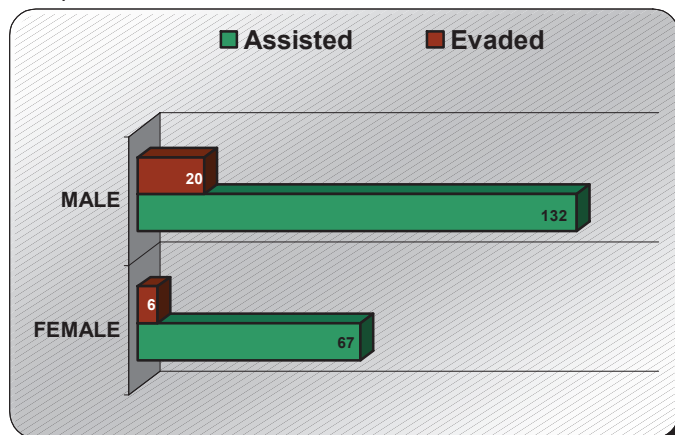
Table No. 2: The accumulated # of assisted children versus the # of children leaving the program

Quarter	Total Assisted	Children Assisted at Dec 2003	Children in the ICBF Protection Network at Dec 2003	Children Reunited with their Families	Children Leaving in Irregular Fashion	Children in the Interior Ministry Reintegration Program	Children Leaving the Program when Reaching the Age of Majority
Dec. 31	1,375	553	72	257	335	128	30
Sept.31	1176	550	66	157	276	103	24

Table No. 3 shows the total number of assisted children and their situation. One of the highlights is the increase in the number of children who are reunited with their families. Their number rose from 157 to 257 during the quarter. By the end of the quarter, 553 children were receiving assistance at the different implementing centers (HAT, CAE, and CJ). The others were receiving protection through the ICBF network (72). This is the case of pregnant girls. There were meetings this quarter with the Ministry of Justice Rehabilitation Program to expedite the transfer of 128 youngsters who had reached the age of majority and whose legal cases had been closed.



Graph No. 3: Number of assisted children versus the number of irregular departures during the quarter, by gender



There were 26 irregular departures during the quarter: 20 boys (27%) out of the 132 who entered during the quarter and six (21%) of the 67 girls who entered. There were two (2) more irregular departures compared with the previous quarter (24 vs. 26). This situation can be explained by the fact that some youngsters want to spend the holidays with their families. The closure of three (3) CAEs and one CJ was also a factor. This caused a certain amount of anxiety and uncertainty for the youngsters who had to be transferred to other centers and had difficulty adapting to the new institution.

Graph No. 4: Number of irregular departures versus the total number of assisted children

Out of the 1,375 children assisted through the Program, 348 (25%) have departed in an irregular fashion. **Most of these cases involve boys (15%); 9% involve girls.** This situation shows a slight increase when compared with the longer permanence of youngsters in the previous six months. Work is underway with ICBF to stabilize the youngsters who enter the program and to reinforce the capacity of the implementing centers to detain them.

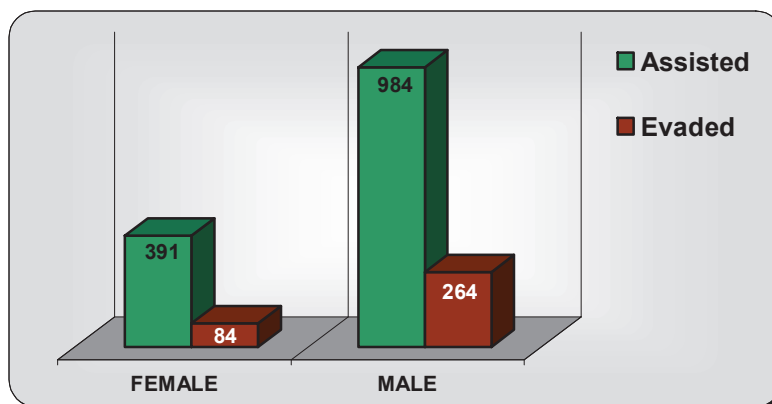


Table No. 3: Gender breakdown of incoming children during the quarter

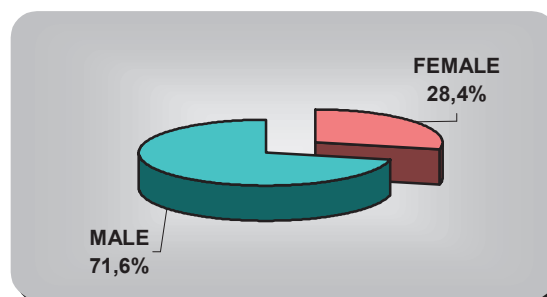
Data on Incoming Children During Reporting Quarter (Oct 01 - Dec 31, 2003)					
MONTH	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL MONTH
	#	%	#	%	#
October	27	34	53	66	80
November	23	34	37	62	60
December	17	29	42	71	59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>66 %</b>	<b>199</b>

A particularly interesting aspect in Table No. 3 is the increase in the number of girls who entered the Program during this quarter compared with the number of boys. In previous months, the entrance tendency, by gender, was approximately 27% girls and 73% boys. However, by the end of December, 34% of the 199 children who entered the Program were girls (67) and 66% were boys (132). Most of the girls were members of the FARC.

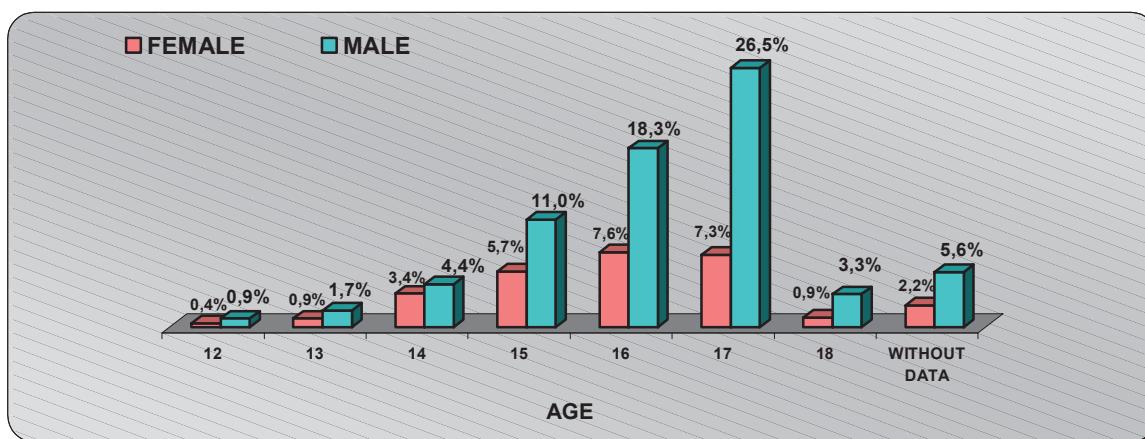


Graph No. 5: Gender breakdown of assisted children

As shown in Graph No. 5, 391 of the 1,375 ex-combatant children who have joined the Program are girls (28.4%) and 984 are boys (71.6%). By the end of the previous quarter, 27.6% were girls and 72.4% were boys. Compared with this quarter, the share of girls has increased again, reversing the downward trend observed in previous months.



Graph No. 6: Accumulated data on program admissions, by age and gender



Graph No. 6 shows the age and gender distribution of the 1,375 children who have joined the Program. Children age 16 to 17 represent for the largest percentage. There are 821 youngsters in this age group and they account more than half of all the children in the Program.

Table No. 4: Distribution of incoming children by age and gender Oct - Dec: 2003

Data On Incoming Children by Age and Gender During Oct - Dec 2003					
AGE	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#
12	1	50%	1	50 %	2
13	2	50%	2	50%	4
14	8	38%	13	62%	21
15	13	35%	24	65%	37
16	23	41%	33	59%	56
17	16	25%	47	75%	63
18	4	25%	12	75%	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>199</b>

Table No. 5 shows the gender and age distribution of the 199 children who entered the Program this quarter. The age 17 bracket still accounts for the largest percentage of ex-combatant children. Considering they remain with armed groups for 2-3 years, on average, it is possible to conclude that most were recruited between the ages of 12 and 14.



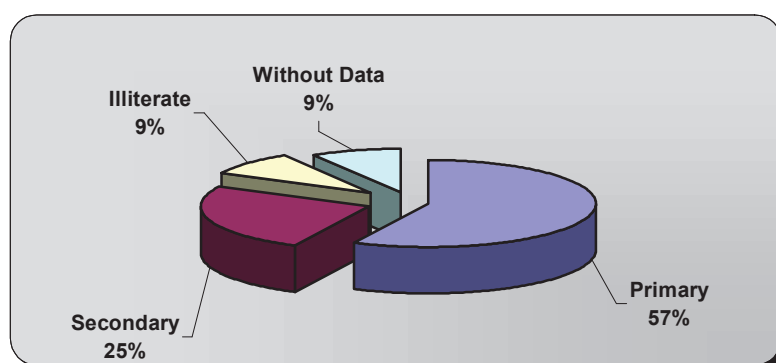


Table No. 5: New admissions during the quarter, by educational level and gender

Table No. 5 shows the educational level of children who enter the Program is lower among boys than among girls. Five percent (5%) of the children with no schooling are girls and 95% are boys. Likewise, the percentage of girls attending high school is greater than the proportion of boys (19 out of 67 girls as opposed to 21 out of 132 boys). Compared with the group of boys, the girls have more education. Proportionally, there is no significant difference in the percentage of boys and girls with an elementary education. A comparison between age (Graph No. 5) and grade level (Table No. 6) shows most children are definitely old for their grade level.

Data on Incoming Children by Educational Level vs. Gender During Oct - Dec 2003					
GRADE	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	
Elementary	47	34%	92	66%	139
High school	19	48%	21	53%	40
Illiterate	1	5%	19	95%	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>199</b>

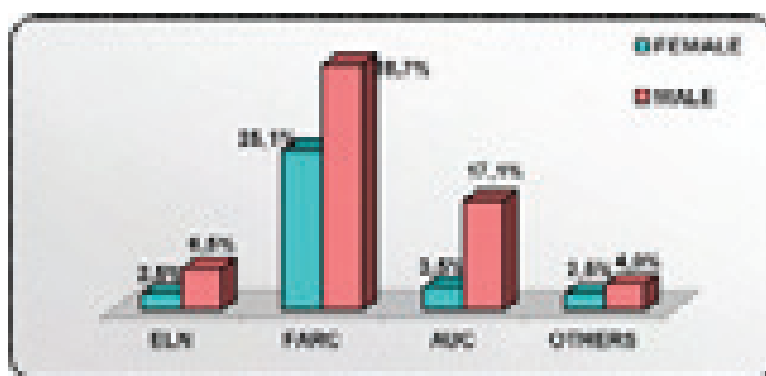
Graph No. 7: Program admissions, by educational level



Only one in four children who have gone through the Program has completed one grade of high school. One out of 10 had no access to formal schooling. The largest group (787 children or 57%) is comprised of children with elementary studies. There is no educational data on 120 children (9%) due to the lack of a registration system during the first stage of the Program. The children's low educational level is a challenge

to the Program, since improving the extent of their education represents more opportunities for self-determination and quality of life in the future.

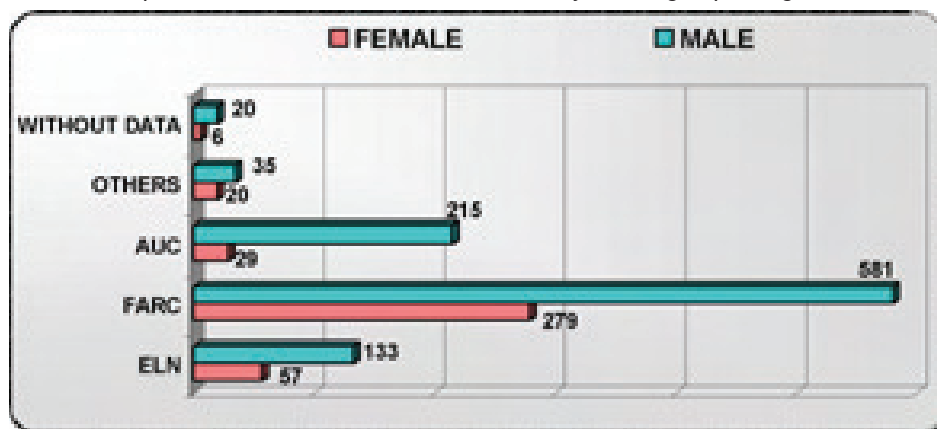
Graph No. 8: Demobilization during the quarter, by armed group and gender Oct – Dec 2003



One hundred twenty-seven (127) of the children who entered the Program this quarter were members of the FARC: 77 males (38% of the 199 who joined the Program) and 50 females (25.1%). Ex-combatant children from the AUC rank second. Forty-one (41) belong to one of the AUC blocs (seven girls and 34 boys). Children from the ELN are the third leading group. Eighteen (18) ex-combatants from the ELN entered the Program this quarter, including five girls and 13 boys. There were 13 children from other minor insurgent groups, including five (5) girls and eight (8) boys.

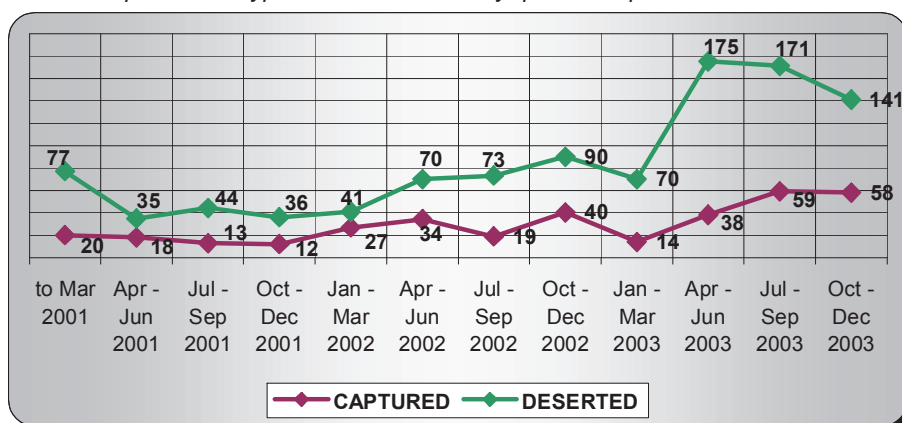


Graph No. 9: Accumulated demobilization, by armed group and gender



Graph No. 9 shows the breakdown of ex-combatant children by gender and armed group. There was no major change this quarter compared with previous quarters. In terms of both boys and girls, those from the FARC constitute the largest group (62% of the total). Boys from the AUC rank second among demobilized males (18%). This, however, is not the case for girls by themselves, who are not as numerous in the AUC as in guerrilla groups. Children from the ELN account for 14% of all demobilized youngsters in the Program. Four percent (4%) come from other minor groups and 2% have no data on record.

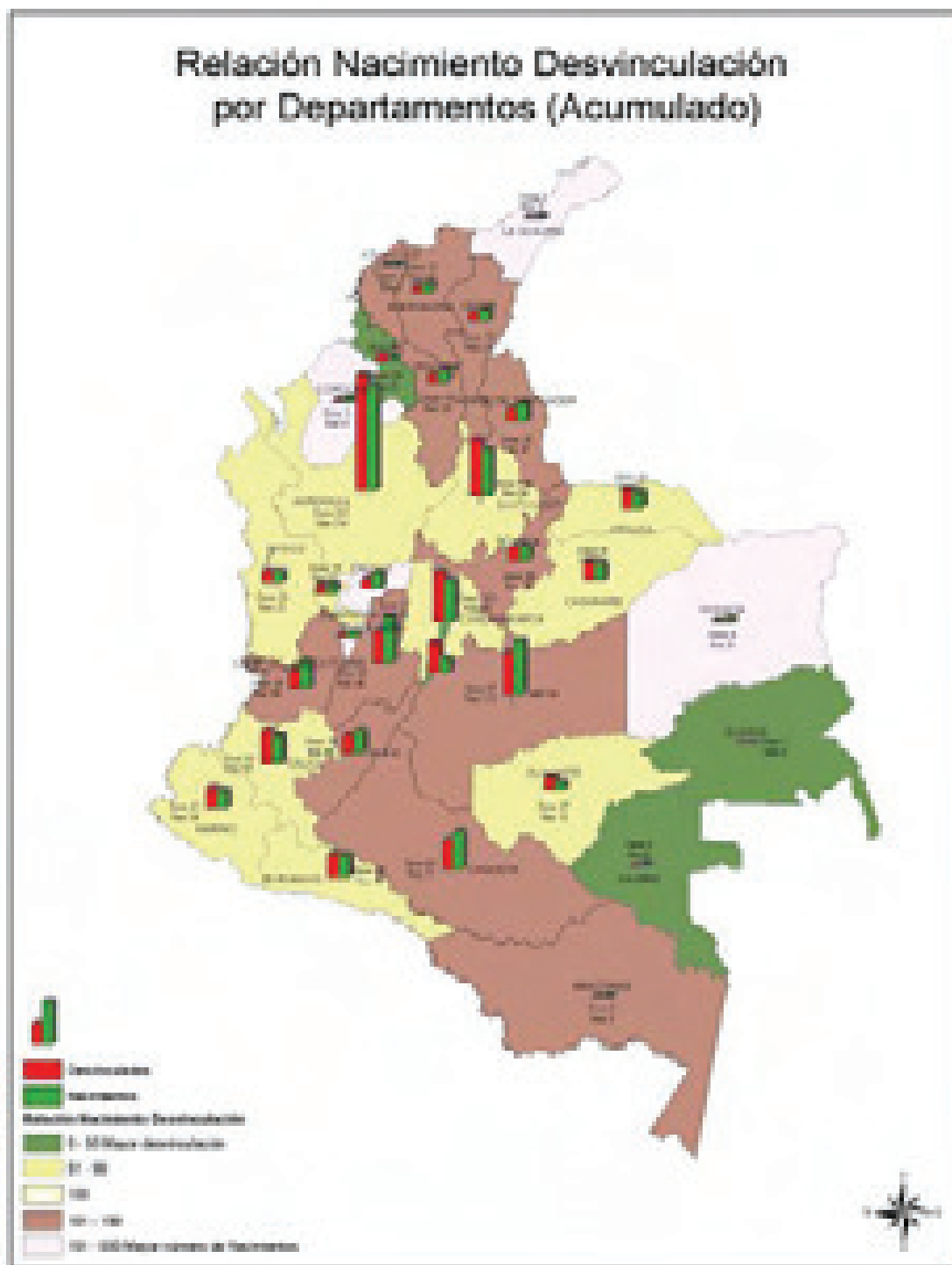
Graph No. 10: Type of demobilization by quarter: captured vs. deserted



Graph No. 10 shows the historical trend in demobilization. A comparison between the figures for this quarter and those of the previous one shows a decline. This is mainly because fewer children demobilized voluntarily. The number of captures was almost the same as in the previous quarter (one less). The graph also shows an increase from 25% to 29% during this past quarter in the percentage of children who were captured compared with the total number of demobilized children.



MAP NO. 1 PLACE OF BIRTH VS. PLACE OF DEMOBILIZATION





MAP NO. 2 GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE PROGRAM





## V. PROGRAM STATUS BY COMPONENT

### 1. PREVENTION

#### 1.1 Synergies developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from the Colombian Government, Civil Society Organizations, and the International Cooperation, as follows:

##### GOC

- ✓ Office of the President of Colombia
- ✓ Cauca Departmental Government
- ✓ Mayor's Office in Barbosa, Caucasia, Heliconia and Segovia (Antioquia); Cajibío, La Vega, Santander de Quilichao and Totoró (Cauca); Bahía Solano, Beté, Novita and Puerto Echeverri (Chocó); La Palma, La Peña, Nimaima and Quipile (Cundinamarca); Iquira, Garzón, Neiva and Pitalito (Huila); Mocoa and Puerto Asís, (Putumayo); Cimitarra, Girón, Floridablanca and Puerto Wilches, (Santander).
- ✓ The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF)
- ✓ *Instituto Luis Carlos Galán*
- ✓ Municipal Human Rights Ombudsman Offices
- ✓ Human Rights Ombudsman's Office
- ✓ San Antonio Departmental Hospital
- ✓ San Antonio Departmental Hospital in Pitalito
- ✓ Mayor's Office in Popayán
- ✓ *Cabildo Indígena del Cauca*
- ✓ *Institución Educativa Fray Martín de Porres*
- ✓ *Unidad Municipal de Asistencia Técnica (UMATA)*

##### Civil Society Organizations

- ✓ *Comités de Cafeteros* (Coffee Growers Committees)
- ✓ *Fundación Propaz*
- ✓ *Arte y Folclor*
- ✓ *Fundación Guaguas de la Pacha Mama*
- ✓ *Asociación Agropecuaria Industrial NASA*
- ✓ *Pastoral Social*
- ✓ *Núcleo de Desarrollo educativo 103*
- ✓ *Fundación Cedavida*
- ✓ *Colegio Ciudad Mocoa*
- ✓ *Casa de la Cultura*
- ✓ *Colegio Etno Educativo Kuëe Ssi'j*
- ✓ *APC*
- ✓ *Colegio Mirador*
- ✓ *Fundación Dos Mundos*
- ✓ *Grupo Scout 89 Zulu*
- ✓ *Proaburanorte*
- ✓ *Asociación proyectos del Cauca*
- ✓ *Ciudad Don Bosco*

##### International Cooperation

- ✓ UNICEF
- ✓ IOM-IPEC Program
- ✓ IPEC-ILO
- ✓ UNDP - *Manos Amigas*





## 1.2. Workplan Progress

<b>OBJECTIVE #. 1:</b> Introduce proposals to prevent children from engaging in the armed conflict to potential counterparts for discussion, review, allotment of funds and inclusion in regional plans.	
Results	Activities
1. Prevention proposal has been implemented through regional operating plans designed for 13 departments (54 municipalities)	<p>1.1 Officials from previously sensitized agencies were invited to develop institutional maps.</p> <p>1.2 Sixty four (64) regional workshops were conducted to draw up risk maps. These workshops were attended by 576 officials and served as an occasion to draft 576 local plans to prevent children from being recruited.</p>
<b>OBJECTIVE # 2:</b> Identify, in a participatory way, the risk factors that prompt children to join insurgent groups and promote preventive strategies in the selected municipalities.	
Results	Activities
1. Vulnerability and risk maps were prepared in 54 municipalities in 13 departments.	<p>1.1 Pilot tests on the risk maps were completed with demobilized youngsters who are involved in the income generation projects being implemented through an agreement with the Cauca departmental government and <i>Colegio Mirador</i></p> <p>1.2 There was a seminar for selecting municipalities and training in the vulnerability and risk mapping methodology.</p> <p>1.3 The vulnerability and risk map was applied in 26 municipalities: Barbosa, Cauca, Heliconia and Segovia (Antioquia); Cajibío, La Vega, Santander de Quilichao and Totoró (Cauca); Bahía Solano, Beté, Novita and Puerto Echeverri (Chocó); La Palma, La Peña, Nimaima and Quipile (Cundinamarca); Iquira, Garzón, Neiva and Pitalito (Huila); Mocoa and Puerto Asís, (Putumayo); Cimitarra, Girón, Floridablanca and Puerto Wilches, (Santander).</p> <p>1.4 Priorities were identified, according to the risk factors, and project briefs were prepared.</p> <p>1.5 The vulnerability and risk map was applied in 10 municipalities: Puerto Wilches, Girón, Heliconia, Barbosa, Iquirá, Garzón, La Peña, Quipile and Puerto Asís.</p> <p>1.6 Priorities were identified, according to the risk factors, and project briefs were prepared.</p> <p>1.7 A workshop was held to present the results of the first application and to make recommendations.</p>
<b>OBJECTIVE #. 3:</b> Develop a strategy to prevent child abuse and domestic violence at local level.	
Results	Activities
1. 1,800 community leaders and teachers have been trained in reconciliation and conflict management, family counseling, child-rearing patterns and the law on domestic violence	<p>1.1 Community organizations were identified and selected in the municipalities singled out for the Program, with 20 organizations in four municipalities.</p> <p>1.2. Meetings were held between ICBF and the IOM-IDPs Program to apply the <i>Haz Paz</i> (Make Peace) policy.</p>





**OBJECTIVE #. 4:** Promote children's access and permanence in the school system and in non-formal education programs in the selected municipalities.

Results	Activities
1. 500 children and young people have been enrolled in the school system in 26 selected municipalities.	1.1 Teachers were trained to apply educational modules on promoting a culture of peace, preventing child abuse, and conflict management at school. Contact was established with the Popayán Department of Education. 1.2 Materials were reproduced and distributed at selected schools and institutions, through <i>Colegio Mirador</i> in the Popayán district. 1.3 Beneficiaries in Popayán who returned to their families received school shoes and supplies and their registration fees were paid.
2. 600 children and teenagers who dropped out of school or are old for their grade level are now enrolled in accelerated learning programs in 26 selected municipalities	2.1 Institutional measures were taken with the education department to identify the supply of formal and non-formal vocational training programs for high-risk youths in the municipalities of Segovia (Antioquia), Nóvita (Chocó), La Peña (Cundinamarca), Popayán (Cauca) and Neiva (Huila)
3. 150 youngsters are enrolled in vocational training programs	3.1 High-risk youths were selected as potential beneficiaries of vocational and job training programs to be carried out under the training agreement for young people from District 07-Robledo in Medellín. The training is in dressmaking, printing, automobile mechanics, cabinetmaking and farming.

**OBJECTIVE #. 5:** Arrange to initiate income generation projects with the families of children and teenagers who are at risk of being recruited by armed groups.

Results	Activities
1. Increased income for 150 families whose children are extremely vulnerable to recruitment.	1.1 Beneficiary families and youngsters were identified in the municipalities of Segovia (Antioquia), Nóvita (Chocó), La Peña, Quipile, Nimaima and La Palma (Cundinamarca), Popayán and Totoro (Cauca). 1.2 Eleven project ideas were proposed for income generation projects to be carried out in the municipalities of Barbosa, Caucasia, Segovia, Totoró, Novita, La Palma, La Peña, Quipile, Ñiquira and Heliconia for 590 direct beneficiaries, including teachers and children. 1.3 505 families have benefited.

**OBJECTIVE #. 6:** Help to reinforce public policy for children by including youth recruitment prevention as an item on the agenda of agencies responsible for national, departmental and municipal planning.

Results	Activities
1. The topic of recruitment prevention is part of the Ten- Year Plan for Children, the National Plan to Eradicate Child Labour and the municipal development plans of the priority towns for the Program.	1.1 Meetings were held and commitments established with the municipal governments of Heliconia and Segovia (Antioquia), La Vega (Cauca), Bahía Solano, Nóvita (Chocó), and Cimitarra (Santander) to define prevention projects. 1.2 The Ministry of Education and the departmental education offices were lobbied to define policies and strategies for improving the quality of education as a way to prevent children from joining insurgent groups.



**OBJECTIVE #. 7:** Design and implement a national awareness and information campaign on the problem of children's recruitment by insurgent groups, preventive strategies, and the responsibility of institutions and citizens in dealing with this problem.

Results	Activities
1. Four million Colombians have been Sensitized with the problem of children and the armed conflict, through the mass media and alternative means of conveying information.	<p>1.1 An <i>ad hoc</i> institutional committee comprised by the ICBF, the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the ILO Child Labour Eradication Program and the Office of the President of Colombia was established to define guidelines for the campaign. The "Initiative to Prevent Children from Joining the Armed Conflict" was launched.</p> <p>1.2 A television commercial and one for airing on the radio were prepared.</p> <p>1.3 The prevention campaign Launching was coordinated for January 28, 2004</p> <p>1.4 Scripts were prepared for six radio programs, as educational material to prevent children from joining the armed conflict.</p>

**OBJECTIVE #. 8:** Evaluate the progress and results of the prevention strategy.

Results	Activities
1. The prevention strategy is being evaluated every six months.	<p>1.1 The evaluation strategy and tools were designed.</p> <p>1.2 Regional evaluation workshops were held.</p> <p>1.3 Follow-up, evaluation and systematization of the risk mapping methodology, was carried out.</p>



## 2. EDUCATION

### 2.1 Synergies Developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from the Colombian Government, Civil Society Organizations, and the International Cooperation, as follows:

#### GOC

- ✓ ICBF – regional & local offices
- ✓ Colegio Cristiano del Norte
- ✓ Colegio Emiliano de los Padres Somascos
- ✓ Instituto Tecnológico de Medellín (ITM)
- ✓ Colegio Alfonso López
- ✓ Colegio Siglo XXI
- ✓ Colegio Departamental De Chia
- ✓ *Universidad a Distancia* (UNAD) (distance learning)- Modular High School Program
- ✓ Ministry of Education - Accelerated Learning Program
- ✓ Instituto Luis Carlos Galán
- ✓ Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, Delegate for the Rights of Children, Youth, and Women and Delegate Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities
- ✓ Departmental and Municipal Secretaries of Education ( Antioquia Secretary Of Education, Medellín Secretariat For Education and Culture)

#### Civil Society Organizations

- ✓ Program's implementing NGOs
- ✓ CAFAM
- ✓ CONFAMDI
- ✓ R. Feurstein Institute
- ✓ COMFAMILIAR
- ✓ ATIS
- ✓ COLSUBSIDIO-Modular High School Program
- ✓ National Indigenous Organization (ONIC)
- ✓ Alianza Educación para La Paz

#### International Cooperation

- ✓ United Nations-Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict
- ✓ UNDP
- ✓ World Bank
- ✓ Inter American Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- ✓ Latin American Association for Human Rights (ALDHU) Save the Children
- ✓ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
- ✓ Social Science Research Council of New York
- ✓ Convenio Andres Bello
- ✓ Ibero-American States Organization (OEI-Spanish Acronym)
- ✓ International Research Network on Children and Armed Conflict



## 2.2 Workplan Progress

### *Supervisory visits Centers in Cali*

**OBJECTIVE # 1: Guide and support the improvement of the education offered to young people in each operating institution of the Program.**

Results	Activities
1. Operating institutions advised on the design and implementation of pedagogical models for working with child ex-combatants.	<p>1.1 20 supervisory and technical assistance visits to the different program operating centers were made to guide and support the development of the education component and evaluate progress and difficulties experienced in the educational process 1) by youth; and 2) by technical teams responsible for accompanying the educational process.</p> <p>1.2 22 centers were advised on the pedagogical approach and focuses and on technical and administration matters pertaining to the development of the education component in Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Cali, Pereira, Medellin, Bucaramanga, Ibagué, Tunja (HATs, CAEs, CJs).</p>
2. Technical teams in operating centers guided and advised on development of youth educational programs.	<p>2.1 Advised on the design of the Education Plan of the following centers: CAE Forjar (25 youths - Bogotá); CAE YMCA (25 youths - Bogotá); CAE Shalom (25 youths - Tunja); Hogar Niños de Guicán (12 children - Tunja) Advised 3 CAEs under the Vide Foundation on making a contingency plan for keeping young people in school (60 youths -Cundinamarca).</p>

**OBJECTIVE # 2: Improve the quality of the education component by conducting a continuous evaluation of lessons learned.**

Results	Activities
1. Systematic assessment of lessons learned carried out in the education component in each center.	1.1 Monthly visits to operating centers for accompaniment and monitoring of alternative methodologies such as modular high school program (delivered in cycles), the CAFAM methodology, and grade equivalency upgrading.
2. Personnel implementing the educational component is evaluated.	<p>2.1 Terms of reference developed for the purpose of contracting teachers for the educational component in the program's operating centers.</p> <p>2.2 Advised on hiring of 4 teachers in the operating centers to guide and implement the program's educational component</p>



**OBJECTIVE # 3: Train the personal in the Education Component of the program's centers**

Results	Activities
1. Team of 20 professionals in education trained in special aspects of work with demobilized children	1.1 Second National Seminar Workshop on Educational Options: Accelerated Learning, Modular High School Program, CAFAM Continuing Education Model was held. A total of 45 educators responsible for the program's 25 centers attended.
2. Professionals training needs identified and supported to facilitate appropriate management of educational component	2.1 The need to establish and consolidate the routine procedures for initial pedagogical assessment, with the operators, especially with the educators, was identified. 2.2 Meetings were held with the centers' educators to improve the application of the methodology for determining the educational status and direction of each young person who enters the program.

*Training Seminar on Appropriate Pedagogy*

*Teachers (45) from the Centers participating in the II Training Workshop CAFAM*

**OBJECTIVE # 4: Guarantee that Youth Entering the Program Can Exercise Their Right to Education**

Results	Activities
1. 100% of the youth in the program are studying in an appropriate program within the educational system	1.1 29 scholarships awarded during the quarter for formal education: CAE <i>Puertas Abiertas</i> and CJ – Cali. 1.2 7 funding agreements to support access of 177 program youths to school system (including youths in family to enter elementary, junior high, and secondary levels of the school system). 1.3 Workshop for 37 youths from different operating centers in Bogota held to reinforce academic skills (mathematics, communication, study habits and motivation) 1.4 Workshop to strengthen communication skills, mathematics and values held for 46 youths belonging to the program's operating centers in Cali.

*High School Graduate for Youth of the Halfway House (CJ) in Bogotá*

*Two High School Graduates from the CAE Vide*





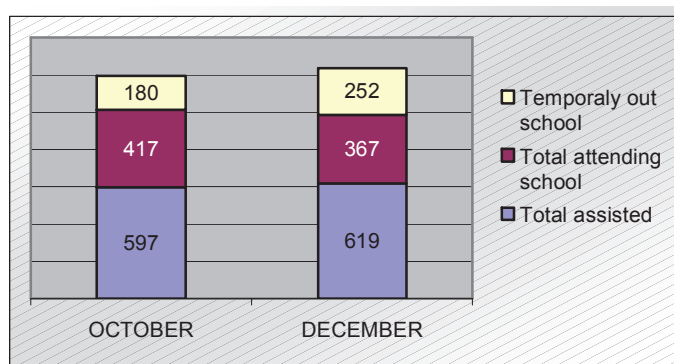
Results	Activities
2. Inter-institutional coordination promoted by the program to improve opportunities for ex-combatants children to exercise their right to education and to guarantee program sustainability.	<p>2.1 Held 10 meetings of standing inter-institutional coordinating committee involving the Office of Populations and Inter-Institutional Projects (National Ministry of Education, MEN); the National Office of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), and the IOM program management in education of the Child Ex-Combatant Program to prepare Plan of Action through which the Colombian state will assume responsibility for education of youths in the program beginning in 2004.</p> <p>2.2 Organized, coordinated, and developed of site visits by MEN officials to sixteen (16) program centers to assess the relationship of supply and demand for education in 2004.</p> <p>2.3 Carried out five (5) coordinating meetings with Secretaries of Education in Bogotá, Cundinamarca Department, Pereira, Bucaramanga and Cali to define the local access to educational places in the state system through which youths in the program will receive education. Attended by ICBF (Regional and National), Ministry of Education, operating centers and IOM.</p> <p>2.4 Designed, developed and signed an agreement between the Ombudsman's Office, ALDHU, and IOM for the project to support indigenous communities to take preventive measures to discourage recruitment of boys and girls into the armed conflict and revitalize indigenous forms of social control in support of that objective.</p> <p>2.5 Conformed of an inter-institutional coordinating committee responsible for project implementation.</p> <p>2.6 Carried out initial inter-institutional meetings to come to agreement on basic conceptual and methodological issues and defined Plan of Action for first quarter of project implementation.</p> <p>2.7 Held 30 workshops on application and validation of methodologies.</p> <p>2.8 Participated in the organization and realization of the Third International Seminar to Share Experiences on Education for Peace. 20 experiences were presented and 250 people participated.</p> <p>2.9 Presented the program in the "Regional Workshop on Children and Armed Conflict: Great Lakes Region: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda", held in Nairobi, on 15–17 December. National and international NGOs, as well as international organizations working on the problem of children involved in armed conflicts attended the meeting.</p> <p>2.10 Coordinated Inter-regional agenda of mutual support and exchange of experience, best practices and lessons learned for the development of joint advocacy actions and research studies that facilitate the definition of public policy and the development of interventions in the area developed.</p> <p>2.11 Linked with the Income-Generation component of the Program management on the design of educational strategies for vocational and pre-workplace entry training for youths involved in the program.</p> <p>2.12 Prepared a study on alternative methods of training for work, drawing on the range of training possibilities offered by the various Family Welfare Benefits Associations (<i>Cajas de Compensación Familiar</i>) in the different cities where the program operates.</p>





## 2.3 Data on the beneficiaries of the education component

Graph No. 11: Assisted children vs. children attending school in CAES



Of the total number of young people in the program in October, 70 percent (417) were in a program of formal education using appropriate methodologies and supported by academic booster programs run by the program's implementing NGOs. The remaining 30 percent (1880) were in nonformal education programs in basic educational competencies and skills such as study skills and school readiness among others.

During the months of November - December the numbers taking part in nonformal grade equivalency programs increase by 59.3 percent (252) as a result of the entrance of new youths into the program (from 597 to 619). These new admissions could not enter the schools of the formal education system because this is the vacation period when the system is closed. During these two months 367 young people from the program studied through the regular educational system.

Graph No. 12: Scholarships granted to reintegrated children Oct – Dec 2003

During the Oct-Dec 2003 reporting period, the scholarship fund gave increased amounts of educational support to four youths who received aid for study in the CAE and were then reintegrated with their families in Bogotá and in Cundinamarca: two young women and two young men who finished their terms successfully. Likewise three young people located in foster homes received increased educational support.

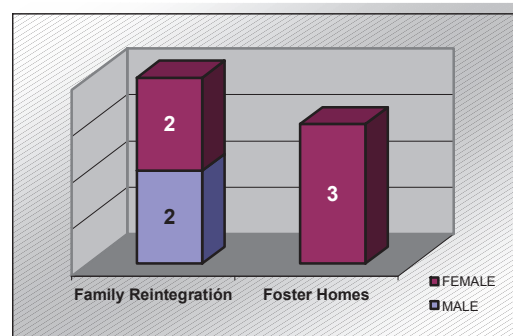


Table No. 6: Scholarships cumulative data

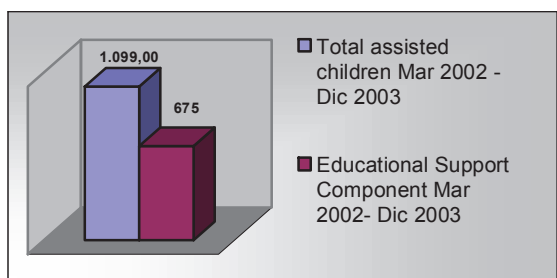
PHASE or LOCATION	Mar - Dec 2002	Jan- June 2003	July- Sept 2003	Oct- Dec 2003
HAT	45	131	59	0
CAE	6	16	152	0
Halfway Homes (CJ)	7	9	35	0
Family Reintegration	0	1	16	7
Prevention-Family members	0	3	3	0
Foster Home	0	4	1	0
External Academic Reinforcement HAT-CAE- RF-HT	0	0	0	83
Formal Education Projects (CAES)	0	0	0	82
Prevention				12
Reinsertion Program	0	3	0	0
<b>TOTAL Scholarships for Period</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>TOTAL Scholarships Awarded</b>	<b>675</b>			

Up to 31 December 2003 the cumulative number of scholarships and/or young people in school with the technical and financial support of the program administered by IOM totals 675. During the quarter seven educational scholarships were assigned to young people taking part in family reintegration, and three contracts were approved and implemented that gave 117 boys, girls and young people removed from the armed conflict educational services in the operating centers.



The number of young beneficiaries aided by the financial support for the educational component dropped in this quarter. The reason is that during the period July-September 2003, basic scholarship support was provided to 266 youths for a six-month period (July-December), leaving 184 to be allocated during the period October-December, along with requests for increased support in some cases and/or approval of projects to strengthen, improve, or ensure the completion of studies of youth up to December 2003.

Graph No. 13: Scholarship granted vs. assisted children 2002-2003



Although the program began in March 2001, the scholarship fund went into operation one year later in March 2002. Since then and up to December 2003, the program has assisted 1,099 young people, of whom 61.4 percent (675) have received educational scholarships or projects to support the development of educational skills in the centers (HAT, CAE, CJ), foster homes, and family reintegration areas of the program.

### 3. IOM - ICBF PROGRAM STRENGTHENING

#### 3.1 Synergies Developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from the Colombian Government and Civil Society Organizations, as follows:

##### GOC

- ✓ ICBF-Regional Offices
- ✓ Nacional University
- ✓ Profamilia
- ✓ El Tunal Hospital
- ✓ Education Ministry
- ✓ Chia IDR
- ✓ INCCA University

##### Civil Society Organizations

- ✓ Implementing NGOs
- ✓ Colombian Red Cross
- ✓ Prever Foundation
- ✓ CERLALC
- ✓ Pasos del Orinoco
- ✓ Corporación Juan Bosco - Corporación Comunicar
- ✓ Artists, Record shops & Managers
- ✓ RCN, Caracol and Regional Media
- ✓ Pioter
- ✓ Colectivo de Mujeres Ex-combatientes
- ✓ La Barca - Benposta - Forjar
- ✓ Centro de Orientación Juvenil Luis Amigó
- ✓ Fundación para la atención Héctor Bolívar López Cabrera
- ✓ Hogares Claret - Don Bosco
- ✓ Padres Somascos
- ✓ Enséñame a Pescar - Punto de Luz
- ✓ Proyección Social CONALJUDES
- ✓ Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Escuela de Pesas Olímpicas



### 3.2 Workplan Progress

**OBJECTIVE # 1:** Strengthen the institutional capacity in terms of reaching consensus on implementation criteria for health, artistic-recreational, political-ethical and therapeutic projects in order to provide services to youngsters demobilized from the armed groups. This is done from a psychosocial perspective to improve the quality of the services and the social reintegration process.

Results	Activities
1. Designed and implemented of a psychosocial model for the services provided to youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict	<p>The assistance model continues to be implemented utilizing the different components and has progressed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. The psychosocial care modules were tendered for public bidding. Once the proposals were received these were reviewed jointly with the ICBF.</li> <li>1.2. The <i>Corporación Vinculos</i> was chosen to develop the five topic modules that will serve as a guideline. These will include criteria and technical tools so that the monitors (therapists and/or technical team) can design the psychosocial care path according to the specific situation of each youngster in the program.</li> <li>1.3. The individuals from the ICBF (local and regional centers) and from the operating centers who will participate have been identified.</li> <li>1.4. Three phases and its products were established. The <i>first stage</i> will be the adjustment and consolidation of the proposal. The product will be a conceptual and methodological document on the module's content. The <i>second stage</i> involves the preliminary design of the modules. The <i>third stage</i> will consist of an evaluation with the operating centers and the ICBF. Finally, the module will be edited and printed.</li> <li>1.5. A work document is being drafted that will serve as a reference for the monitors in establishing the youngsters' profile.</li> </ol>
2. The psychosocial assistance model was fully implemented in the Centres in the health, culture, arts recreation political-ethical <sup>56</sup> and therapeutic areas	<p>2.1 Under the health sub-component:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1.1 National coverage of the training project on sexual and reproductive rights continues to be performed jointly with Profamilia.</li> <li>2.1.2 12 workshops and/or educational presentations on sexual and reproductive health in the following houses: VIDE, Nueva Luz, Colima, Don Bosco were carried out and Nuevos Caminos CAEs. They were fully attended by 175 youngsters.</li> <li>2.1.3 111 general medical consultations, 69 specialized contraceptive consultations, 13 pregnancy tests, 143 medical tests, and 25 tests in other areas (cytology, sonograms, X rays, etc.) were undertaken during this quarter.</li> <li>2.1.4 Meetings were held at a central level with Profamilia doctors to identify some aspects of the youngsters demobilized health situation and the services being provided in the Profamilia health and psychological care centers to youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict. Also, suggestions were received regarding follow-up treatment for the youngsters in each Home or CAE. The main results and suggestions were the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o It is necessary to carry out a cytology day due to the fact that three youngsters in different homes were found to carry the human papiloma virus. This may become a source of great concern in a group with such tight social relations.</li> <li>o It is necessary to generate follow-up patterns for the treatments such as the administration of prescriptions. There is perceived communications deficiency during the changes of duty resulting in the medicines prescribed by the doctors not being given out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2.1.5 Pro-forma invoices were obtained and meetings were held with workers' benefit programs in the regions, and with CAFAM in Bogotá, to reach agreements to provide ophthalmology care and glasses to the youngsters who need them.</li> <li>2.1.6 Individual and group protection and risk factors were identified on the use of psychoactive substances. Aspects such as cultural upbringing in the use of alcohol and tobacco. Anxiety, depression, and unresolved grief situations are some of the factors that influence the use of those substances.</li> <li>2.1.7 The technical teams and the youngsters (93 individuals) were trained on risk factors regarding consumption, protection, classification of psychoactive drugs, including prevention and tools to address the issue.</li> <li>2.1.8 The third phase in the launching of the preventive program was initiated. Implementation of the preventive program is expected to take place during the next quarter. (Attached are the reports' final recommendations)</li> </ol>

<sup>56</sup> Non-violent communications and exercising relationships that build peace, etc.



Results	Activities
2. The psychosocial assistance model was fully implemented in the Centres in the health, culture, arts recreation political-ethical <sup>57</sup> and therapeutic areas	<p>2.2 Under the cultural sub-component:</p> <p>2.2.1 The CERLALC research continued on the children &amp; youngsters cultural factors associated to the conflict. The following activities were carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and analyses of the publications and research on the youngsters' demobilized from the armed conflict.</li> <li>Information gathered: visits and interviews (27 interviews by means of five encounters with the youngsters and two encounters with the technical teams).</li> <li>Coordination with the IOM Cauca Regional Office to present the project and on the way to initiate the work with indigenous communities.</li> </ul> <p>2.2.2 Cultural projects were carried out in areas such as dance, theater, music and corporal expression in the La Guapa CAEs and in the Juan Bosco Half Way Home in Cali.</p> <p>2.2.3 Four activities were developed in all the centers, in the framework of the Christmas season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas <i>novenas</i> were celebrated which included reflections aimed at understanding the meaning of Christmas and the benefits of giving.</li> <li>Youngsters' participation in the December activities organized by mayors' offices, neighborhoods and communities in various regions of the country.</li> <li>Recreational and cultural outings.</li> <li>A Christmas bonus of approximately US\$18 was given to each of the youngsters so that they could buy a present for themselves.</li> </ul> <p>2.3 The following activities were carried out under the awareness raising and dissemination sub-component:</p> <p>2.3.1 Recording of the song "<i>Un Canto Nuestro</i>" was completed with the participation of the following Colombian artists: Andrea Echeverri of the Aterciopelados group, Maia, Julio Nava, Moisés Angulo, Carolina Sabino, Las Escarcha group, Gali Galeano, Fausto, Fonseca and Jorge Celedón. Youngsters of the program participated in the choirs. This interaction generated situations that fostered dialogue and recognition among all of them. This resulted in the youngsters committing to the educational activities, to becoming more open to dialogue and to expressing their emotions. These are attitudes that had not been detected in them before.</p> <p>2.3.2 The "<i>Lúdica Macábrica</i>" short film, produced in 2003, was selected to participate in the Sixth International Cinema Festival's -cinema category- to be held in July, in Guanajuato, Mexico, in the State Auditorium. In addition, the District Cinema Library showed the short film in Bogota's <i>Parque de la Independencia</i>.</p> <p>(Master CD attached)</p> <p>2.4 Under the sports sub-component:</p> <p>2.4.1 Soccer tournaments and departmental weightlifting contests have been held in the La Guapa and VIDE CAEs.</p> <p>2.4.2 The first phase of the Specialized Academic Program (diplomado) on recreational and sports activities with 16 youngsters of Bogotá was completed. The youngsters are accredited by the INCCA University. Educational internships in this area have already started. The youngsters were in charge of the "<i>recreational vacation</i>" program carried out by the Chia Mayor's Office for 200 children of the municipality, during the Christmas Season (Diploma attached).</p> <p>2.5 In the therapeutic area:</p> <p>2.5.1 The design of a psychosocial specialized academic program (<i>diplomado</i>), which is expected to consolidate the care criteria at a national level, has been initiated.</p> <p>2.5.2 The project to support the reintegration of girls demobilized from the armed conflict continues to be developed. Workshops with 37 girls of the program have been carried out and a preliminary characterization of their situation before joining the armed group was made. It was found that they helped with chores around the house, they attended school and they were attracted to symbolic elements and images of the armed groups (uniforms, weapons). Aspects such as their demobilization from the armed groups and their view of their future were also discussed.</p> <p>2.5.3 A meeting with doctors of the Carlina House (in charge of providing care to youngsters with psychiatric problems) was held. This made it possible to learn what work areas should be strengthened to identify with the youngsters emotional situations resulting from their participation in the war.</p>

<sup>57</sup> Non-violent communications and exercising relationships that build peace, etc.





**OBJECTIVE # 2** Implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the follow-up of the services provided to the youngsters during the different stages of the program

Results	Activities
1. A unified monitoring and evaluation system implemented in all the centers that enables follow-up of the situation of each one of the youngsters in the program.	<p>The Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up and Decision Making System (SIME&amp;TD in Spanish) continues to be developed as part of the strategy to cooperate with the ICBF.</p> <p>In accordance with the operations and activities plan designed by the consulting team, the progress made during this first stage of the process included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design of an operations plan.</li> <li>2. Input for the conceptual design among which the following are highlighted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Design of services criteria matrixes for the different stages of the program from the perspective of reinstating children's rights.</li> <li>b) Proposal for the first list of indicators, from the perspective of reinstating rights, for the evaluation of processes, results and impact.</li> <li>c) Design of criteria matrixes for decision making on critical issues in the process to provide care to the youngsters.</li> <li>d) Conceptual design of the baseline.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

**OBJECTIVE # 3** Increase coverage in each of the program's stages (transit home, specialized Attention center, half way home)

Results	Activities
1. Increased the number of institutions (5) and the slots (144) to provide care to the youngsters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 One transitory home in Cali (Valle) with the Claret Foundation to provide care to 30 youngsters. Three Specialized Care Centers: one in Ibagué (Tolima), one in Tunja (Boyacá), and one in Medellín (Antioquia) to provide care to 90 youngsters. One half way home in Bogotá with <i>Pasos del Orinoco</i> for 24 youngsters.</li> <li>1.2 Transfer of youngsters from three CAEs of the VIDE Foundation to two new institutions of the program. These are managed by the <i>Padres Terciarios Capuchinos</i> (for 35 youngsters) and by the <i>Fundación para la Atención Héctor Bolívar López Cabrera</i> (for 25 youngsters).</li> <li>1.3 The following support was provided: furnishing of the homes; financing the costs of the child/slot/month for up to a month until the agreements with the ICBF were signed; technical and logistical support for the creation of the homes and for the transfers.</li> <li>1.4 The three CAEs of the VIDE Foundation were closed due to non-compliance with the contracts with the ICBF. The CORDES Half way home and the IDIPRON CAE closed when the contracts expired. As of December 31, 2003 there are five Transit homes that provide care to 125 youngsters, 16 CAEs that provide care to 416 youngsters, six Half Way Homes with 39 slots, 72 youngsters in Protection Homes and 22 in Foster Homes.</li> </ol>



**OBJECTIVE # 4:** Continue the technical and administrative strengthening in the entities that are currently providing the services.

Results	Activities
1. Service to the youngsters strengthened <sup>58</sup> at a technical and administrative level	<p>1.1 The selection of the implementing NGO that will provide Support &amp; advance for the Institutional Strengthening of the Programmatic and Administrative Areas of the project was carried out jointly with the ICBF.</p> <p>1.2 <i>Evaluar Consultores</i> was hired. The main objective of the proposal is to develop an improvement plan for the implementing NGOs. This plan will be carried out in three stages: diagnosis; design of improvement plans for each home; an administrative, accounting, financial and programmatic assistance for the implementation of the plan by means of a training process that will be recognized by the Minuto de Dios University as a specialized academic program (<i>diplomado</i>).</p> <p>1.3 A work schedule was put together for the joint work with the ICBF on the development of the first stage (Diagnosis).</p> <p>1.4 The Consulting for the costs study was completed. The quality standards for the implementation of the program and its costs were identified. The values assigned by the ICBF for the development of the program are estimated to be in accordance with the technical requirements to provide care to the youngsters under the existing standards. However, it is estimated that there are activities which the NGOs do not perform such as access to services provided by government institutions. Furthermore, it was concluded that international cooperation contributions are critical in the improvement of the quality of the services provided.</p> <p>1.5 The Community Networks Project continues to be developed in Cundinamarca. Efforts to draw closer to the Mayor's Office in Chia have been made in order to explore the possibility of involving the youngsters in the municipal programs as of 2004. The community network of each one of the institutions that operate in the area were identified. Different proposals were submitted for the inclusion of the youngsters into community training and participation processes such as: a national project for the youngsters to participate in weight lifting as a result of the successful results in Cundinamarca and the achievements obtained in the departmental championship; internal newspapers; and an internal soccer championship.</p>

*Services in the Centers*

*Institutional Strengthening*

<sup>58</sup> Se entiende por fortalecido a un servicio de atención con criterios unificados, con lineamientos, con un sistema de evaluación y monitoreo en ejecución, con caracterizaciones claras y completas desde el ingreso del joven, todo lo cual permite un servicio más eficaz, coherente y asertivo frente a las necesidades del joven y desde las instituciones operadoras.





Table No. 7: # of assisted youngsters and rotation during the quarter by center

Type of Institution	Name of the Institution	Número de que entran en el trimestre	Numero de niños que salen en el trimestre	Número de Niños que permanecen a 31 de Diciembre 2.003
<b>Transit Homes</b>	José	43	47	24
	Luna	36	38	24
	Shalom	38	38	25
	Nuevos Caminos	44	48	24
	Semillas de Amor	45	17	28
<b>Specialized Attention Centers</b>	San Jorge	26	1	25
	Floresta	24	0	24
	Amigonianos	31	0	31
	Libertad y Esperanza	31	1	30
	Héroes del Futuro	11	6	29
	Guapa	22	21	28
	Calima	4	3	25
	Forjar	5	4	26
	Shalom Somascos	32	7	25
	Arco iris	12	12	25
	Puertas Abiertas	13	13	24
	La Barca	13	11	24
	Semillas de Paz	7	8	21
	La Florida	6	2	29
	Nueva Luz	9	11	23
	Benposta	7	8	27
<b>Half House</b>	Valle – Btá -B/mga	22	34	39
<b>ICBF Protección</b>	ICBF Protección	36	21	72
<b>Hogar Tutor</b>		11	4	33
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>519</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>685</b>

The table shows the number of institutions that were operating in the program by December 31, 2003 and the number of children who were have rotated among the different institutions during the quarter. The last column shows the total number of children who provided services by each institution. The highest rotation takes place at the Transit homes since the average length of stay in this stage of the program is from 30 to 45 days while in the others stages they remain several months.



Table No. 8: Summary of the educational activities on sexual and reproductive health

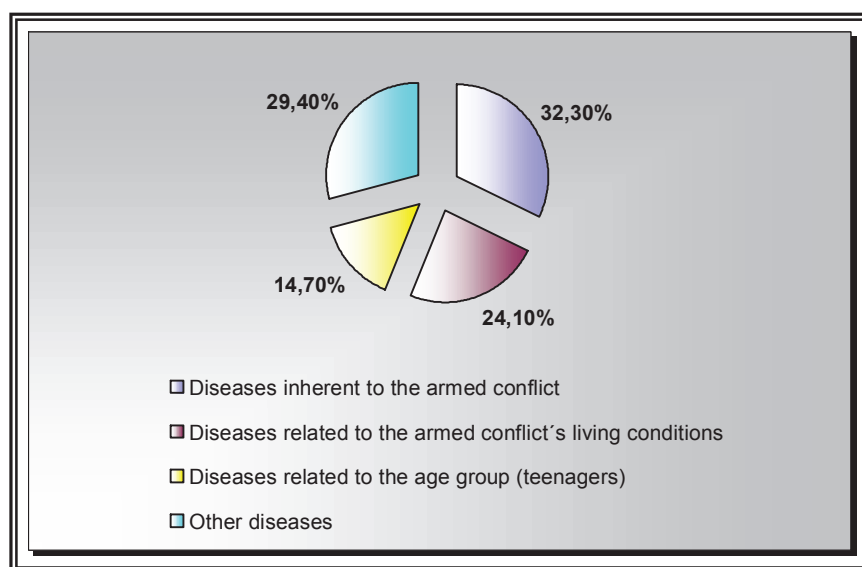
City	Work-shops	Institution	Participants		Total
			Female	Male	
Bogotá	1	CAE VIDE	2	7	9
Bucaramanga	5	CAE Nueva Luz	16	85	101
	2	CAE Colima	7	23	30
Medellín	1	Hogar Nuevos Caminos	1	12	13
Cali	3	CAE Don Bosco	6	16	22
TOTAL					175

The table shows the workshops or presentations carried out by *Profamilia* during the quarter in the different centers and the number of youngsters who participated. The fact that the majority of the youngsters who participated in these activities are males (81.7%) is highlighted.

This could result from the strong establishment of rural habits among the majority of the youngsters of the program and their lack of sexual and family planning knowledge. It seems that males are more open to learning about these issues.

Following are some graphs on the Health Research carried out by the Universidad Nacional's Infancy Observatory (A CD is attached with the results)

Graph No. 9: Most frequent diseases



In accordance with the *Universidad Nacional's* study, which reviewed 240 medical records, the table shows the youngsters' most frequent diseases when they enter the program. 32% correspond to diseases inherent to the armed conflict such as wounds caused by firearms and tropical diseases (malaria, leishmaniasis). Other diseases such as severe headaches, and respiratory and gastrointestinal problems reach 29%. In the third place, with 24%, are diseases related to the living conditions of the armed conflict such as skin and muscular diseases, hearing and eye problems resulting from growing bodies carrying heavy material or strong noises with a high frequency of decibels that affect their hearing capacity. Finally, there are diseases common to teenagers such as urinary infections, vaginitis, and sexually transmitted diseases, among others.

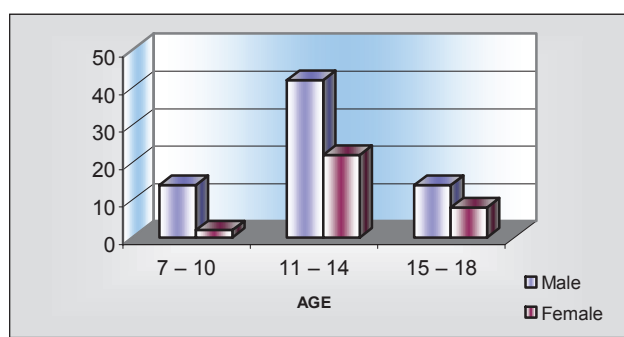


Table No. 9: Nutritional status

The table shows that of the 240 medical records 216 carried information on the youngsters' nutrition situation. 30% of the youngsters present chronic malnutrition which results from eating habits that lack the appropriate nutritional requirements either before joining the illegal armed groups or during the time they remained in them. This situation has irreversible consequences, especially regarding the size of the children. On the other extreme, there are three cases of overweight children. However, the majority of the youngsters were found to be in normal nutritional conditions for their age.

Diagnosis	Frequency	%
Normal	136	62.7
Chronic malnutrition	67	30.9
Acute malnutrition	10	4.7
Overweight	3	1.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>100</b>

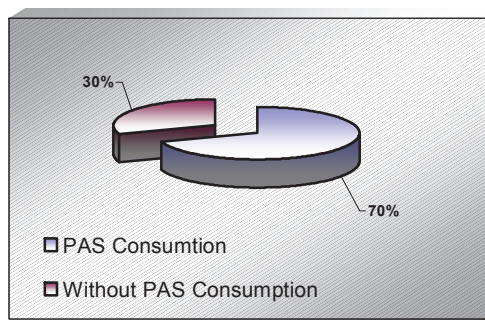
Graph No. 15: Initiation of sexual activity by gender



According to the 240 medical records, the table shows that the most frequent ages at which the youngsters initiate their sexual activity is from 11 to 14 years old although early initiation is greater among males. The information contained in the clinical records does not show if sexual activity began before joining the armed groups or during their stay among them. However, considering that the statistics indicate that entry into the program mainly takes place when the youngsters are 14 to 16 years old and that they have remained among

the armed groups from one to three years, it is very likely that the initiation of their sexual activity took place during the time they spent among the armed groups.

Graph No. 16: Consumption of Psychoactive Substances



The 240 medical records reviewed confirm what the program had detected in terms that an important percentage (70%) of the youngsters had used psychoactive substances: tobacco 73%, alcohol 72%, marijuana 20% and lower percentages for other substances.

Training to Youngsters and  
Technical Teams

Children of the Program  
in Cali

Youngsters of the Cultural  
Activities Program



## 4. FAMILY REINTEGRATION

### 4.1 Synergies Developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from the Colombian Government and Civil Society Organizations, as follows:

#### GOC

- ✓ ICBF (regional and local)

#### Civil Society Organizations

- ✓ Juan Bosco
- ✓ Don Bosco
- ✓ CORDES
- ✓ Hogares Claret
- ✓ ACJ

### 4.2 Workplan Progress

Results	Activities
1 Psychosocial plans implemented in the work with the families and reintegration strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Seven family encounters were carried out in four regions: Risaralda, Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Valle and Santander as follows:</li> <li>✓ Santander – Two encounters. One with Colima with 19 families participating and another one in Nueva Luz with 13 families.</li> <li>✓ Cundinamarca – Two encounters. One with Santos Angeles with 16 families participating and another one with San José and VIDE with 17 families.</li> <li>✓ Bogotá – one encounter in the CORDES Half Way Home with 10 families.</li> <li>✓ Valle – Two encounters. One with Don Bosco with 21 families participating and another one with Juan Bosco with 13 families.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following information about the families was found during the encounters: most of them come from rural sectors; they are very poor; and they are adequately functioning families. This is an indication that the youngsters' engagement in the armed conflict resulted more from economic problems than from family problems. In general, they seemed to have strong family ties, and during the encounters they showed appropriate communication among them. Some of them have been displaced from their homes as a result of their children deserting the armed conflict. This confirms the characterization of the families described in previous encounters.</li> <li>• Social-family studies have been carried out during the encounters for possible family reintegration. These have been done by the program's social workers and the results have been positive. Such is the case of the encounter with the families of the Colima Home where 50% of them presented favorable conditions for reintegration. A social-economic report of the families was requested in order to expedite the reintegration process.</li> </ul> <p>Support for the reintegration of 34 youngsters was provided during the quarter.</p>



### 4.3 Data on the beneficiaries of the Family Reintegration Component

Table No. 10: # of children per regional family encounter-previous quarter comparative report

The table shows the number of family encounters by region and the total number of children who were benefited during this quarter. The number of encounters increased compared with the previous quarter as a result of appropriate planning and the support of the social workers hired by the IOM in the different regions which was coordinated with the ICBF.

Regional	# of children who participated in family encounters July – Sept 03	# of children who participated in family encounters Oct-Dec / 03
Cundinamarca	13	33
Santander	11	32
Bogotá	42	10
Antioquia	15	0
Valle	0	34
Risaralda	0	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>125</b>

Table No. 11: Children reintegrated to their families per center- cumulative total

Type of Institution	Name of the Institution	# of children reintegrated to their families during this quarter	Cumulative total as of 12/31/03
Temporary Homes	Luna	1	2
	José	0	5
	Shalom	0	0
	Claret	2	4
	Semillas de Amor	0	0
Specialized Care Centers	VIDE	2	4
	Santos Ángeles	0	1
	San José	2	2
	Servicio Juvenil	2	2
	ACJ -Colima	0	0
	Forjar	0	0
	Arco Iris	5	14
	Benposta	1	7
	Puertas Abiertas	2	16
	Semillas de Paz	1	8
	La Barca	1	1
	Nueva Luz	1	1
	La Florida	0	0
	San Jorge	0	0
	Floresta	0	0
	Amigoniano	0	0
	Libertad y Esperanza	0	0
	Héroes del Futuro	1	1
	Shalom Somascos	0	0
	La Guapa	3	3
Half Way Home	Valle – Btá -B/mga	6	12
ICBF Protection	ICBF Protection	4	27
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>110</b>

This table shows the family reintegration processes that took place during the quarter in each one of the centers that currently operate under the program and the cumulative total as of December 31, 2003. The highest numbers are referred to the CAEs, which represent 55.8% and Half Way Home with 17.6%.





Table No. 12: Reintegrated vs. Assisted Children

	# Children assisted Oct-Dec	# Children reintegrated to their families Oct-Dec	Cumulative # of reintegrated children
Σ	685	34	156

The table shows the number of reintegrated children compared to the total of number of children assisted during the quarter, which amounts to 4.9%. This figure is higher than that of the previous quarter. However, the armed conflict in the areas where their families live, displacement situations, and the lack of security continue to be the factors that prevent a larger number of family reintegrations.

*Family encounter*

## 5. INCOME GENERATION AND JOB PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 5.1 Synergies Developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from the Colombian Government, Civil Society Organizations, and the International Cooperation, as follows:

#### GOC

- ✓ ICBF
- ✓ Ministry of the Interior: Reintegration Program

#### Civil Society Organizations

- ✓ Actuar
- ✓ Famiempresa,
- ✓ Cecove
- ✓ Centro de Capacitación Don Bosco
- ✓ Red de Centros de Desarrollo Productivo CDP's
- ✓ CAFAM
- ✓ Casting
- ✓ Marketing De Ideas
- ✓ Imaginación
- ✓ Integrar Soluciones
- ✓ Good Will
- ✓ CEPEI
- ✓ Restrepo Barco Foundation

#### International Cooperation

- ✓ UNICEF

### 5.2 . Workplan progress





**OBJECTIVE # 1:** Improve the knowledge and understanding of profile of the youngsters who enter the program and concretize their development expectations.

Results	Activities
1. Youngsters who join the program have received pre-employment and productive orientation	<p>1.1 Design profiles and form to gather information: The learning by doing workshops evaluation form was implemented with the objective of improving the knowledge about the youngsters. 269 beneficiaries of the program were trained.</p> <p>1.2 Individual and group presentations for 269 youngsters participating in the learning by doing workshops on the path to productive integration and job placement.</p> <p>1.3. Provided training to 17 implementing NGOs on profile evaluation; a workshop was held for the operators of the program on learning by doing methodologies aimed at improving their knowledge of the youngsters and their capacity to provide orientation in their path toward generating income.</p> <p>1.4. Evaluation of individual and family profiles: There are profiles in place for 307 youngsters.</p>
2. Income generation strategy disseminated among the youngsters who participate in the program.	2.1 Participation in the design of information guidelines for the introduction presentations aimed at the youngsters who join the program. An income generation component was included. The guidelines are being reviewed by the ICBF.

**OBJECTIVE # 2:** Educate the youngsters of the program on labor skills that will allow them to have access to sources of income by means of employment. This will be part of their basic education aimed at developing on the job psycho-technical and learning skills.

Results	Activities
1. 350 youngsters trained on the processes to prepare for learning and pre-employment orientation.	1.1 Eleven learning by doing <sup>59</sup> workshops were carried out in the Specialized Care Centers and in the half way homes. 269 youngsters attended.
2. 240 youngsters provided with training on vocational education <sup>60</sup> and job searching <sup>61</sup> .	2.1 Thirty eight vocational education scholarships were granted for youngsters who are in the second stage of the program (CAEs and half way homes). The cumulative number of scholarships granted during the program totals 277.
3. 170 youngsters provided with training on basic labor skills.	3.1. The first evaluation of the training needs for the following productive sectors was hired: woodwork and furniture, food, tailoring, leather and shoemaking, metallurgic (smelting and welding).

<sup>59</sup> These are on the job simulation workshops with groups of youngsters pretending they are attending collective training courses such as those that take place in a business environment.

<sup>60</sup> These are aptitudes searching and basic competency workshops on specific areas such as shoemaking, jewelry, wooden furniture, events and festival planning and agricultural-industry activities.

<sup>61</sup> It is carried out based on a labor searching model aimed at business visits and previous knowledge of labor skills and employment in real scenarios.



4. 100 youngsters employed	1. 25 youngsters are doing internships in events and festival logistics. 2. 20 youngsters are employed. 3. 25 youngsters carried out a pilot project to produce producing cards and are working on a temporary basis.
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**OBJECTIVE # 3 :** Provide orientation to the youngsters aimed at developing an entrepreneurial spirit and to exploring feasible productive initiatives.

Results	Activities
1. 70 youngsters who have a basic business profile provided with orientation on project design and implementation.	1.1 An orientation and evaluation methodology of the youngsters' business profiles was designed along with a business orientation path. 1.2 Support was provided for the design, evaluation and implementation of 13 productive projects in areas such as jewelry, coffee shops, cleaning materials, and poultry production. These will benefit 58 youngsters, 32 males and 26 females. 1.3 15 youngsters participated in the workshops on small businesses' basic management.

**OBJECTIVE # 4:** Identify investment opportunities for the creation of businesses or for an improved usage of installed capacity as a means to generate stable employment for the youngsters benefited by the program.

Results	Activities
1. Identified, designed (30) and implemented (20) productive projects with the private sector.	1.1 The study on the training needs is complemented with the identification of investment opportunities in the mentioned productive sectors. 1.2 A total of 14 initiatives have been designed with the private sector and four are being implemented. 1.3 936 jobs generated during the implementation of the program. The programs' beneficiaries are gradually incorporated as a result of the process contemplated in the strategy for income generation.

**OBJECTIVE # 5:** Institutionalize the development of the program by building public and private social capital.

Results	Activities
1. Institutional and business support networks <sup>62</sup> established in order to strengthen joint development of productive activities and projects	1.1. Dissemination of the strategy among the private sector during eight meetings with 40 businessmen. 1.2. Coordination and technical support to the Ministry of the Interior and Justice for the development of joint projects for youngsters of the reintegration program. 1.3. The project to design the Business Perception Observatory has been initiated. 1.4. Preparations for the International Convention on better practices for productive integration and job placement have begun.

<sup>62</sup> Institutional Support networks are GOC and civil society institutions that can become strategic partners for the development of income generation projects.



Table No. 13: Scholarships granted: sectors and gender Oct – Dec 2003

Target sectors	Male	Female	Total	%
Cabinet-making	3	0	3	100%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>
Supplementary Activities	Male	Female	Total	%
Learning by Doing	172	65	237	87%
Starting Small businesses	7	8	15	6%
Card making	10	10	20	7%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>275</b>	

Table No. 14: Scholarships granted: sectors and gender program cumulative

Target Sectors	Male	Female	Total	%
Woodwork and furniture	13	0	13	17%
Jewelry	14	7	21	27%
Shoemaking	11	0	11	14%
Tailoring	4	3	7	2%
Events and festival planning	10	15	25	32%
Sub-total	52	25	77	100%
Complementary Activities	Male	Female	Total	%
Mechanics	42	1	43	10%
Electricity	3	0	3	1%
Bakery	13	0	13	3%
Cultural searching	11	5	16	4%
Learning by Doing	172	97	269	64%
Other	47	28	75	18%
Sub-total	288	131	419	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>496</b>	

Table No. 15:  
Scholarships granted for education for work

City	Male	Female	Total	%
Bogotá	168	90	258	52%
Bucaramanga	80	32	112	23%
Cali	60	11	71	14%
Medellín	15	15	30	6%
Pereira	17	8	25	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>100%</b>

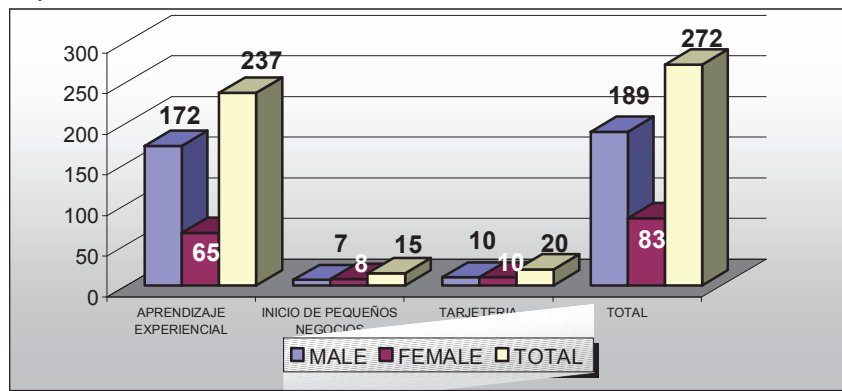
Table No. 16:  
Scholarships Granted for Education for Work

Stage	Male	Female	Total	%
CAE	197	89	286	58%
Half way homes	120	51	171	34%
Family reintegration	13	1	14	3%
Prevention	10	15	25	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>100%</b>

By the end of the quarter a total of 496 scholarships were granted to youngsters who are beneficiaries of the program. These were directed at education for work, based on the learning by doing workshops, and at vocational education on specific skills.

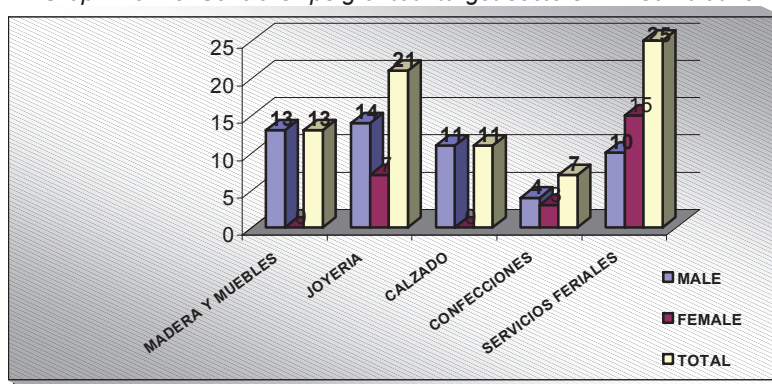


Graph No. 17



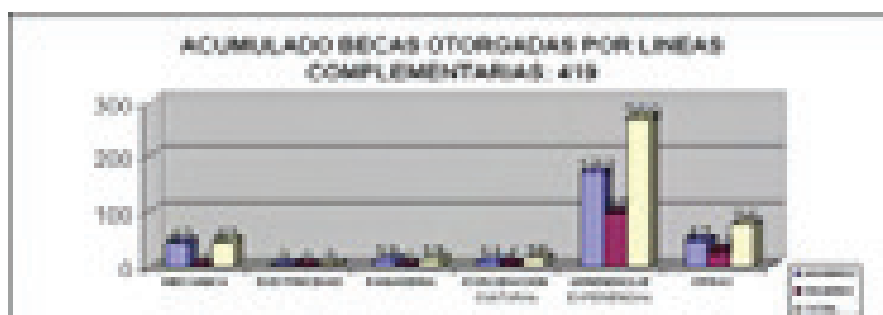
86.2% of the scholarships granted during this quarter corresponded to preparation for learning. This is the initial step in the path toward generating income. 12.7% of the scholarships were granted for vocational education for complementary activities and development of an spirit, and 1.1% to basic skills training for target sectors such as woodwork and furniture.

Graph No. 18: Scholarships granted: target sectors: 77 Cumulative



The scholarships granted to the target sectors – for specific labor skills and to provide greater employment opportunities -- correspond to 15.5% of the total scholarships granted since the beginning of the program.

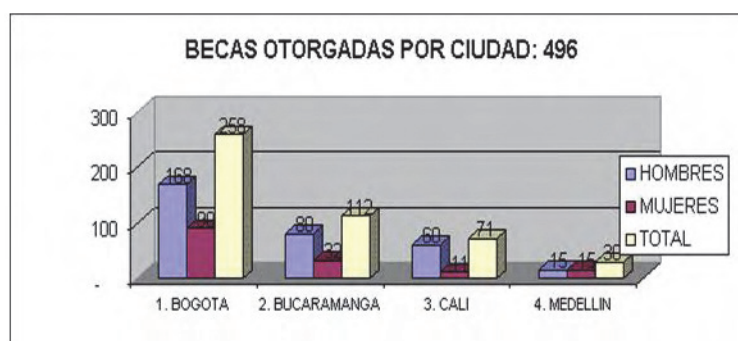
Graph No. 19: Scholarships granted: Supplementary activities: 419 Cumulative



84.5% of the total scholarships granted (419) by the program have been directed at complementary activities for different sectors and to learning by doing.

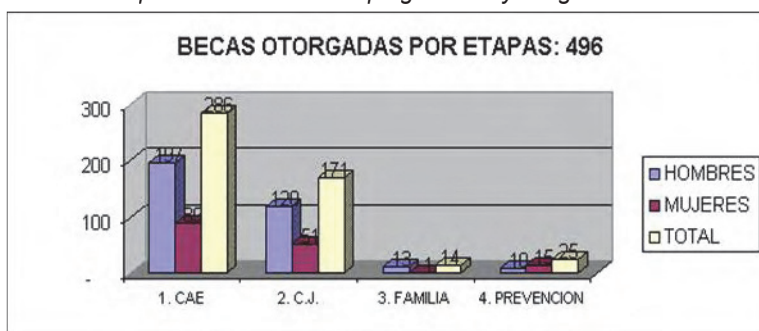


Graph No. 20: Scholarships Granted by City



During this quarter the scholarships granted per city are as follows: Bogotá, 52%; Bucaramanga, 23%; Cali, 14%; Medellín 6%, and Pereira 5%.

Graph No.21: Scholarships granted by Program Phase



The scholarships granted by Program phases to the youngsters of the CAEs correspond to 58% of the total granted since the beginning of the program. Youngsters of the Half way homes have been granted 34%, and those in the family reintegration stage, 3%. The remaining 5% correspond to the prevention component. Of the cumulative total of scholarships granted, 68% were given to males and 31.4% to females.

## 6. CONTINGENCY PLAN

### 6.1 Synergies Developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from the Colombian Government and Civil Society Organizations, as follows:

#### GOC

- ✓ ICBF

#### Civil Society Organizations

- ✓ Salesianos
- ✓ Somascos
- ✓ Capuchinos



## 6.2 Workplan Progress

**OBJECTIVE # 1:** Support an appropriate government response in case of massive demobilizations.

Results	Activities
1. An Inter-institutional strategy designed in case of a massive demobilization of youngsters.	<p>1.1 The AUC in Medellín returned 48 youngsters who were directly reintegrated to their families and communities with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP in Spanish). The proposal for the first phase included an assessment by a multi-disciplinary team composed of a doctor, a nutritionist, a social worker and a teacher.</p> <p>1.2 Profiles of 24 of the 48 youngsters have been completed. The remaining 24 are pending because the OACP asked to postpone the assessments. It has been established that the youngsters had little contact with the paramilitary and that their behavior has to do more with street and gang experiences. Information from the OACP is expected in order to complete the profile of the missing youngsters.</p> <p>1.3 An adjustment to the Contingency Plan in case of a simultaneous demobilization of 50, 100 and up to 200 minors was carried out jointly with the ICBF. Technical teams were created to be in charge of receiving, diagnosing and placing the youngsters within a maximum of eight days (proposal attached).</p> <p>1.4 An outline for the provision of services to the foster homes has been drafted along with the ICBF. Furthermore, a test program that will be implemented jointly with the ICBF's Quindío Regional Office was designed (attached). The foster homes are considered as a complementary strategy for a possible massive demobilization.</p>

Coordination with the following congregations has taken place: Salesianos (Don Bosco-Ibagué), Somascos (Tunja) and Terciarios Capuchinos (Cajicá), in accordance with the strategy of working with large institutions in order to guarantee the services to the children in case of a massive demobilization.

*Table No. 17: Psychosocial, health and education status demobilized AUC group in Medellín*

HEALTH	NUTRITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High consumption of PAS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-consumption among youngsters of San Pablo; only two substances among youngsters of La Sierra.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Recent wounds with knives or firearms.</li> <li>- Deterioration of the lungs, respiratory problems.</li> <li>- Symptoms of possible sexually transmitted diseases.</li> <li>- Altered sleeping habits.</li> <li>- Fear of doctors' examination, awareness of the body, feeling of helplessness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced malnutrition.</li> <li>- Ingestion of only one or two meals among La Sierra youngsters</li> <li>- Ingestion of all the meals by San Pablo youngsters.</li> <li>- Gastritis, inappropriate eating habits.</li> <li>- Size does not correspond with age.</li> <li>- Complementary nutrition plan required.</li> </ul>
EDUCATION	PSYCHOSOCIAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced schooling among La Sierra youngsters (from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade).</li> <li>- Low schooling among San Pablo youngsters (from 0 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade).</li> <li>- Difficulties in developing basic skills.</li> <li>- San Pablo youngsters interested in studying.</li> <li>- La Sierra youngsters interested in working.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One parent families mainly headed by women and feelings of abandonment.</li> <li>- Informal work (looking for work, street sales, prostitution tendencies among mothers, domestic work).</li> <li>- Sentimental deprivation.</li> <li>- Early parenthood.</li> <li>- Feelings of revenge associated with the violent death of family members caused by other groups.</li> <li>- Power and territoriality.</li> <li>- "Connivance" among the families, silence generated by intimidation or convenience.</li> </ul>

The table shows some of the most relevant aspects found to date in the assessment of 24 youngsters demobilized from the AUCs in Medellín. This work is being coordinated with the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace.





## 7. REFERRAL AND SUPPORT CENTERS

### 7.1 Synergies Developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from Civil Society Organizations, as follows:

#### Civil Society Organizations

- ✓ Benposta
- ✓ Don Bosco Cali

### 7.2 Workplan Progress

**OBJECTIVE # 1:** Design and implement a strategy to create Regional Referral and Support Centers to support the youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict.

Results	Activities During the Quarter
1. Designed strategy for the creation of Referral and Support Centers.	<p>1.1 The Bogotá Referral Center was created and is being operated by Benposta. The following actions have been carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two workshops with youngsters graduated from the program to initiate actions in the Referral Center. Participation of 20 youngsters.</li> <li>• Design of the Referral Center's.</li> <li>• Assistance and monitoring to the Program's component managers to design guidelines by area. Vocational training activities, were designed.</li> <li>• Follow-up to 17 youngsters graduated from the program.</li> </ul>
2. Three regional Referral centers created and operating.	<p>2.1 The Bogotá Referral Center continues to operate.</p> <p>2.2 A meeting with the Don Bosco institution took place to create awareness about the start-up of the Cali Referral Center. Don Bosco is drafting a proposal to open the second Referral center.</p>



## 8. DISSEMINATION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

### 8.1 Synergies Developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from the Colombian Government and Civil Society Organizations, as follows:

<u>GOC</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ICBF</li> <li>✓ Human Rights Ombudsman Office</li> <li>✓ Registraduría Nacional del Estado Civil</li> </ul>
<u>Civil Society Organizations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Program's implementing NGOs</li> </ul>

### 8.2 Workplan Progress

**OBJECTIVE # 1:** Dissemination among local, regional and national authorities and among civil society organizations of the legal status of excombatant children to guarantee a due judicial and/or administrative process.

Results	Activities During the Quarter
1. Officials, (family judges, family advocates and other civil servants) trained on the regulations that are applicable to excombatant children's judicial and administrative processes.	1.1 Design of the Legal and Standing "Judicial" that should be applied in the cases of youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict. Consolidation of the Inter-Institutional Observatory to confirm the application of human rights of children and teenagers in a risk situation due to the armed conflict. 1.2 Coordination with members of the ICBF, the Attorney General's Office, the IOM and the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office to consolidate the administrative procedures in cases of youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict.

**OBJECTIVE # 2:** Contribute with the process of obtaining identification documents for the youngsters and to expedite their legal processes.

Results	Activities During the Quarter
1. The youngsters have identification cards and their legal processes flow in a quick and timely manner.	1.1 15 youngsters were transferred to the Ministry Reintegration Program of the Interior and Justice's Reintegration Program. 1.2 281 youngsters were certified as demobilized from the armed conflict by the CODA <sup>63</sup> in order to receive benefits. 1.3 Eleven workshops for the youngsters on Legal & Judicial Standing Path issues were carried out during the quarter in the following houses: Nuevos Caminos Temporary Home (Medellín), La Florida CAE (Medellín), Colima CAE (Bucaramanga), Semillas de Paz CAE (Piedecuesta), Nueva Luz CAE (Bucaramanga), Half Way Home i Piedecuesta, Arco Iris CAE (Bogotá), Puertas Abiertas CAE (Cali), Half Way Homes in Cali, Semillas de Amor Temporary Home (Cali) and Héroes del Futuro CAE (Pereira). 1.4 127 judicial processes <sup>64</sup> closed thus allowing these youngsters to be under the protection of the ICBF. 1.5 Documents (identification cards and/or civil registry) of the 444 youngsters provided during the quarter.

<sup>63</sup> Operative Committee for disarming.



### 8.3. Data on beneficiaries of the dissemination of the legal framework component

*Table No. 23: Minors with identification documents*

Total youngsters	Youngsters with Documents Previous Quarter	Youngsters with Documents during the October/December Quarter
685	398	444

The table shows that 64.8% of the youngsters assisted during the quarter have identification documents. There was a slight change compared to the previous quarter. However, the process to obtain documents for the youngsters who come from far away regions of the country requires long periods of time; therefore, the process of having 100% of the youngsters with documents is going to take longer than expected.

*Table No. 24: Youngsters Certified by the CODA Cumulative*

# of youngsters certified with CODA Cumulative to Sept 30 2003	# of Youngsters Certified with CODA October-December 2003	# of Youngsters Certified with CODA Cumulative to Dec 31 2003
346	281	627

The table shows the cumulative number of youngsters certified by the CODA as of December 31. The information of the previous quarter corresponds to 44.8% of the cumulative certifications' total. This shows how the level of efficiency regarding this matter has improved thus making it possible for the youngsters to receive benefits as a result of their demobilization.

*Table No. 25: Judicial and Administrative Processes*

Total youngsters placed as of December 31, 2003	Youngsters with ongoing judicial processes	Acquitted Youngsters	Youngsters with ongoing Administrative Processes
685	448	237	684

The table shows the legal situation of the youngsters assisted during the quarter. 237 cases were closed, in other words 34.5% of the youngsters are being processed by the ICBF. In the case of the administrative processes, one of them is being handled by the Public Prosecutor's Office. This is why the total number of ongoing administrative cases amounts to 684 instead of 685, in accordance with the number of children assisted during the quarter.

<sup>63</sup> Judicial Processes Closed are those which the Judge has acquitted. In other words, the cases are no longer handled by the Court and instead the youngsters are under the protection of the ICBF Administration.



## 9. PREVENTION AND REINTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-COLOMBIAN MINORITIES

### 9.1 Synergies Developed

The Program developed synergies with agencies from the Colombian Government and Civil Society Organizations, as follows:

#### GOC

- ✓ Human Rights Ombudsman Office
- ✓ Departmental government of Chocó and Cauca
- ✓ Mayors' Offices of Sabaleta, Istmina, Alto Baudó and Tadó
- ✓ Cabildos Indígenas of the reservations of Huellas and Guachicono
- ✓ UMATAs (Municipal Technical Assistance Units)
- ✓ Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA)

### 9.2 Workplan Progress

**OBJECTIVE # 1:** To consolidate the reintegration and prevention model for youth from ethnic minorities in the departments of Choco and Cauca

Results	Activities
1. 160 young native people and Afro-Colombians from the department of Choco involved in cultural, educational and food security projects that prevent their recruitment into irregular armed groups.	<p>1.1. Productive projects implemented with 329 youths from target groups in the municipalities of Sabaleta, Istmina, Alto Baudó and Tadó, Department of Choco</p> <p>1.2. Workshops on human rights, international humanitarian law and ethnic legislation held in the municipalities of Novita and Bahía Solano, with 147 Afro-Colombian young people and 64 teachers.</p>
2. 120 boys and girls demobilized from the irregular armed groups in the department of Cauca who are members of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities are beneficiaries of income-generation projects	<p>2.1. Collection and sale of organic blackberry in 10 lots of young indigenous people on the Caldono reservation.</p> <p>2.2. Sale of chickens to be replaced and continue with production</p> <p>2.3. Merchandising and sale of food products</p> <p>2.4. Raising and fattening pigs in the hamlet of Altamira indigenous reservation of Huellas-Caloto.</p> <p>2.5. Raising calves, project with youth of Bodega Alta hamlet.</p> <p>2.6. Calf raising and milk production, project with youth of Rio Blanco Indigenous Reservation in order to improve their quality of life and their incomes</p> <p>2.7. Sale of eggs. Project in the Rio Blanco and Guachi Cono Indigenous Reservations in the municipality of Sotara and la Vega.</p> <p>2.8. Production of suckling pigs (22) in the Caldono Indigenous Reservation</p>
3. 250 boys and girls from the indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities of Cauca at risk of being recruited by irregular armed groups are beneficiaries of cultural, educational, and family strengthening projects.	<p>3.1. Promotion of the musical group Piurek, to improve sales and market position.</p> <p>3.2. Identification of cultural and sports projects to be implemented with 215 young people from the municipalities of Caldono, Sotara, Cajibío, Timbio</p>



### 9.3 Data on beneficiaries of the program

Table No.18 Project beneficiaries by ethnic groups – department of Cauca

Ethnic Group	Beneficiaries	%
Peasants	3	3
Indigenous Groups	2	2
Afro-Colombians	113	95

Ninety-five percent (95%) of the total number of project beneficiaries (118) are members of indigenous groups (Paeces, Guambianos and Yanaconas, 95), three percent are peasants, and two percent (2) are Afro-Colombian. Thus, the strong participation of the indigenous people, in which the Paeces are the most represented, continues to hold.

Table No.19 Project beneficiaries by Indigenous groups – department of Cauca

The distribution of indigenous community representation in the Cauca project is as follows: 58% Paeces (66 beneficiaries), 27% Guambianos (30 beneficiaries), and a smaller proportion of Yanaconas (15 percent or 17 beneficiaries).

Indigenous Group	Beneficiaries	%
Peaces	66	3
Guambianos	30	2
Yanaconas	17	95

Table No.20: Gender Distribution of Beneficiaries –Department of Cauca

Gender	Beneficiaries	%
Female	82	69
Male	36	31
Total	118	100

A total of 69 percent (82 beneficiaries) of the total of 118 are male and 31 percent (36) are female. The gender breakdown continues to show a predominance of demobilized males since males participate more in the armed conflict. The high participation of girls in the conflict demands that a gender perspective be outlined, such that the projects to be implemented in the area of prevention are appropriate and their actions also work to discourage females from joining the illegal armed groups.

Table No. 21: Distribution by Armed Group– Department Of Cauca

Group	Beneficiaries	%
FARC	58	49
Militia Group	3	3
Prevention	56	47
ELN	1	1
Total	118	100

A total of 49 percent (58) of the 118 beneficiaries were involved in the FARC, 3 percent (3 youths) in the militia groups and one percent in the National Liberation Army, ELN. The FARC continue to be the main group recruiting young people in Cauca Department.

All the program beneficiaries (100%) are Afro-Colombian, which historically has maintained a significant level of participation in the prevention projects. The department has organizations that represent them, encourage interest in the projects and participation in their communities.





Table No. 22: Project Beneficiaries in food security and Educational project –Department of Choco

Type of Project	Beneficiaries / Quarter			Beneficiaries /Cumulative		
	Indigenous	Afro Colombians	Teachers	Indigenous	Afro Colombians	Teachers
Food security	0	0	0	47	282	0
Educational (Human Rights, Other)	0	147	64	172	845	183

In the course of implementing projects for ethnic minorities and Afro-Colombians in the department of Choco, in addition to continuing to care for 45 young ex-combatants (food security productive project in Sabaleta), the coverage continues to increase with the same distribution of ethnicities. This ratifies the high percentage of Afro-Colombian communities who live in the department. The figures show the increase in the project population: of a total of 1,529 beneficiaries, 71 percent (845 youths) belong to Afro-Colombian communities and 14 percent (172) to indigenous communities.

In the group of Afro-Colombians, 698 youths are beneficiaries of the educational and information on human rights projects. The remaining 329 young people (22 percent) participate in the food security projects. Of the indigenous youths, 172 (13 percent) participate in educational projects and 47 (3.6 percent) in food security projects. Finally, 15 percent (183) of the beneficiaries are teachers who have been trained as multipliers in the educational sector.

The Afro-Colombian beneficiaries who attend the educational project are somewhat equally divided between males and females with males dominating slightly (77 percent male and 33 percent female). This is a significant change from figures reported previously when the gender distribution was the inverse. In the teachers' group, the participation is 11 percent female and 4 percent male.

The food security component (agricultural and livestock) continues to show higher participation rates of boys.



## 10. LESSONS LEARNED

During this quarter the following lessons learned can be highlighted:

- The permanent coordination with the ICBF in designing guidelines for the foster homes, the selection of proposals for institutional strengthening, the modules to provide psychosocial care and the Contingency Plan have made it possible to join efforts and to define common actions. This has resulted in an improvement of the quality of the services provided to the youngsters.
- The importance of coordinating actions with the universities has been demonstrated. An example of this is the successful completion of the first phase of the Specialized Academic Program (*Diplomado*) for Level 1 community sports trainers for a group of 16 youngsters.
- The youngsters' encounter with artists, journalists, speakers and public figures who have supported the program caused a great impact on the youth. This experience has made it possible to increase the program's support networks and to design new social awareness activities.
- The educational processes implemented among the youngsters are more effective when the methodologies and the educational options take the youngsters' real learning abilities into consideration and when these are strengthened by providing support and incentives especially designed to attend their development requirements.
- Permanent motivation favors discipline to study and it plays a significant role in obtaining academic results and success. These motivational processes should be supported by the Centers' technical teams and by the teachers.
- The existence of permanent follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for the development of the youngsters' education, positively contributes to accomplishing good academic levels and to attaining the goals set forth in the different grades and cycles.
- It is necessary to guarantee the permanence of the training teams who, with the appropriate professional profiles, are able to provide the support and educational monitoring required by the youngsters. The rotation of teachers affects the effectiveness of the technical assistance, follow-up, supervision and performance evaluation processes.
- It will be necessary to strengthen the school reinforcement mechanisms and to better equip the Centers with educational material in order to succeed in providing educational services to the youngsters.
- The weakness of the operating institutions on issues such as income generation projects management has made it evident that it is important to include the private sector in these efforts. Their support should be sought in finding labor opportunities for the youngsters based on their expertise in identifying, designing and monitoring income generation projects and in creating market networks. Furthermore, the private sector could also provide assistance to small initiatives developed by the youngsters.
- The methodology used for the Risk and Vulnerability Map is appropriate. It is necessary, however, to adjust the implementation strategy in order to guarantee that the project design, implementation and follow-up can be undertaken by the municipalities in a sustainable manner.
- The implementation of the Risk Map has made evident the fact that the main vulnerability factor in the municipalities covered is the lack of alternatives for the use of free time.

Before implementing the methodology contained in the Vulnerability and Risk Map it is necessary to evaluate the community's views regarding the armed conflict in terms of collective imagination and of the implicit and explicit positions regarding the problem. This would prevent violations of the local culture since the map's methodology -- due to different circumstances -- may not correspond to their interpretation of the conflict and the children's participation in it. In this manner the implementing agents will not be exposed.





## 11. PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

The priorities for the next quarter are the following:

- Launching the “initiative to prevent the children from engaging in the armed conflict” and developing a strategy to coordinate communications. This should be aimed at building collective scenarios in which the engagement in the conflict issue is addressed and discussed.
- Create awareness regarding demobilization and reconciliation. This will be done by launching the “Un Canto Nuestro” CD, by the messages of the artists and by working with the media.
- Designing the Terms of Reference to select and contract an implementing NGO that will carry out the project to train the youngsters on how to become peace agents.
- Opening of the Referral Center in Cali.
- Coordinating and carrying out activities to develop the Specialized Academic Program (diplomado) for psychosocial care.
- Design, draft and publish the Sexual and Reproductive Health guide.
- Support and guarantee placement of the youngsters in public sector educational institutions.
- Complete the design and publish the material to support the monitoring process in the Centers: Introduction Handbook; descriptive and testimonial video; Focus, Strategy, Methodology and Educational Monitoring Techniques Dossier; educational material about motivating, developing and strengthening basic learning abilities (Tool Box).
- Design of a training strategy to use the Tool Box to support the Overall Assistance Program.
- Improvement of the scholarships administration system and enhancement of its implementation through the Referral Centers or through an external administrator (outsourcing).
- Strengthen agriculture industry training in the education for work processes.
- Involve the private sector in at least three productive initiatives.
- Review of the design, contract and implementation start-up of the projects resulting from the application of the Risk and Vulnerability Maps.
- Adjust the strategy for the application of the Risk and Vulnerability Map during the second phase of its implementation in the departments selected.



## VI. ANNEXES

- Oficial Financial Status Report.
- Fundación Prever (Recomendaciones Finales).
- Protocolo de atención para entrega masiva de niños, niñas y jóvenes desvinculados del conflicto armado.
- CD de resultado de estudio de costos.
- CD de el informe final de investigación en salud observatorio de la infancia.
- CD de Un canto nuestro.

